Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-053
Wednesday
18 March 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-053 18 March 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Delegate Addresses Arab League Council *[JANA]* 3
Yemen Asks Egypt To Mediate With Gulf States *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Mar]* 3
U.S. Trying To Keep Arab Negotiators 'Weak' *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Mar]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Admit Disunity on Jordan Confederation *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Jordan Supports Proposal *[AL-QUDS 16 Mar]* 4
DFLP Head Urges 'Immediate Dialogue' With Rabin
[Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG 9 Mar] 4
PLO's Qaddumi Assesses U.S. Pressure on Israel *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Al-Quds Radio Praises Yafo Attack 6
Report Notes 'Heroic Operation' Near Nabulus *[Algiers VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Court Jails L'HEBDO-LIBERE Director *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Source Comments on Minister's Reaction *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Two Policemen Shot Dead in Boufarik *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Syrian President al-Asad Visits Cairo for Talks 8
Received at Airport *[MENA]* 8
Al-Asad, Mubarak Confer *[Cairo Radio]* 8
'Special Importance' of Visit Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 9
Al-Asad Receives Libyan Envoy *[Damascus Radio]* 9
Al-Asad, Mubarak To Resume Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 9
Al-Asad Seeks 'Emergency Arab Summit' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9
Al-Asad Departs *[MENA]* 10
Editorial on 'Arab Solidarity' *[MENA]* 10
Foreign Minister Warns of Regional Destabilization *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 16 Mar]* 10
Editorial Urges Bush Policy Be Given Chance *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Assembly Speaker Meets DPRK Vice President *[MENA]* 11
DPRK Deputy Premier Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Editor Assails 'Pressure' on Security Council *[JANA]* 11
Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives for Talks *[Tripoli TV]* 11
Confers With Jabir *[JANA]* 12

Mauritania

RDSP Wins Legislative Elections *[Nouakchott Radio]* 12

Sudan

Foreign Minister Says Terrorism Charges 'Baseless' *[SUNA]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Prosecution Concludes 'State Security Cases' *[KUNA]* 13

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Scores King Husayn on Fundamentalist Aid *[Riyadh TV]* 13
Council of Ministers Discusses CIS Visit Results *[SPA]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Military Awards Ceremony *[INA]* 14
Saddam Says Allies 'Lost' War Against Iraq *[AL-THAWRAH 11 Mar]* 15
Saddam Chairs Meeting on Tariq 'Aziz Mission *[INA]* 16
Saddam Meets Tariq 'Aziz, Industry Officials *[INA]* 16
'Aziz on Right To Become 'Major Military Power' *[Amman Radio]* 16
India's UN Envoy Receives Tariq 'Aziz *[Delhi Radio]* 17
'Source' Asks Iran To Review Stand on POW's *[INA]* 17
Paper Scores 'Dawdling' on Exchange *[INA]* 18
Irbil Bombing Kills Three, Wounds 27 *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 18
Government Reportedly Prepares Northern Offensive *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 18
Reportage on Regime-Opposition Marshland Clashes 18
Baghdad Loses 600 Troops, 8 Tanks *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 18
Opposition Downs 10 Helicopters *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 19
Paper States 'International Policy' To Succeed *[INA]* 19

ISRAEL

Casualties in Attack on Embassy in Buenos Aires *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
More on Islamic Jihad Claim *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Shamir Reacts *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Levi: 'We Will Do What We Must' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Addresses Knesset on Attack *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Additional Levi Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
British Prime Minister's Message *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Defense Minister Holds 'Good Meeting' With Baker *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Efforts To Clarify Arms Sales Said 'Failed' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Shamir Not To Change Policies 'One Iota' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Shamir on Loan Guarantees, Attack in Yafo *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Health Minister on Settlements, Guarantees *[Tel Aviv TV]* 23
Knesset Okays Direct Election of Prime Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Eytan To Resume Post as Agriculture Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Moda'i on Alternatives to U.S. Guarantees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Water Commissioner Against Raising Quotas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir Meets Visiting Bulgarian Prime Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Levi, Dimitrov Confer *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26

JORDAN

Editorial Hails Bush Position on Loan Guarantees *[AL-DUSTUR 18 Mar]* 27

DPRK Vice President Discusses Cooperation *[Amman Radio]* 27
Kuwait Said Depriving Returnees of 'Rights' *[AL-RA'Y 17 Mar]* 27

LEBANON

Delegation Head: Washington Talks 'Not Easy' *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Islamic Jihad Claims Attack in Israel *[VOL]* 28
Retaliation Expected *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 28
Israelis in 'State of Extreme Readiness' *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Interior Minister Predicts Release of Germans *[Hamburg DIE WELT 17 Mar]* 29
Release Seen 'Within a Week' *[Beirut Radio]* 29
'Sources' on Lebanese, Syrian Efforts *[VOL]* 29
Al-Murr Confers With German Envoy *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Irish Defense Minister Arrives in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 29

SYRIA

Economic, Technical Agreement Signed With PRC *[SANA]* 30
Commentaries Praise President al-Asad's Speech 30
'Comprehensive Pan-Arab Speech' *[Damascus Radio]* 30
'Neither Appeases Nor Bargains' *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Arab Unity Stressed *[Damascus Radio]* 31
'Course of Struggle' Emphasized *[SANA]* 31
'Syria Opened the Path to Peace' *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Further on Briton's Remarks on Gulf Security *[TISHRIN 5 Mar]* 33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Hundreds' of Reinforcements Sent to Mazar-e-Sharif *[AFP]* 34
Rebel Spokesman Claims City Captured *[Tehran TV]* 34
Rebels Hold Positions Around City *[AFP]* 34
Missile Attack on Kabul Kills Nine *[Kabul Radio]* 35
30 Die in Nimruz Province Clashes *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Internal Affairs Ministry on Passport Issuance *[Kabul Radio]* 35

India

Minister on Pentagon Paper, Joint U.S. Exercise *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Paper Comments on Recent Pentagon Document *[INDIAN EXPRESS 10 Mar]* 36
President of Kyrgyzstan Arrives on Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Banquet Remarks Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Akayev on Economic Relations *[Delhi TV]* 37
Accords on Relations, Cooperation *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Agreement To Expand Economic Ties With Turkey *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Remittances by Indians in Gulf Increase *[Delhi TV]* 38
New Indigenously Built Missile Boat Commissioned *[Delhi TV]* 38
Council Being Formed on Kashmir Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Lok Sabha Passes Copyright Amendment Bill *[Delhi Radio]* 38

Iran

DPRK Envoy: Second Vessel Heading for Region *[IRNA]* 38
Deputies Protest Interruption in Coverage *[Tehran International]* 39
Khomeyni Views 'Highly Important' Elections *[Tehran International]* 39
Turkish Mediation in Nagorno-Karabakh Rejected *[IRNA]* 40
Commentary Sees 'Plot' Against Azerbaijan *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Mar]* 40
'Source' Assails 'Baseless' Turkish Allegations *[Tehran International]* 41
'Political Weakness' Blamed *[Tehran International]* 41
Commentary Criticizes Turkish Raids on PKK *[Tehran International]* 42

Ayatollah Meshkini Condemns Seizure of Vessel *[Tehran TV]* 42
Connection Seen With Korean Ship *[IRNA]* 42
Government Urged To 'Reconsider' Turkish Ties *[IRNA]* 43
Visiting Australian Discusses Chemical Accord *[Tehran International]* 44
Atomic Agency Urged To Act Against Israel *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 5 Mar]* 44
Hizballah Leader's News Conference Detailed *[AL-'AHD 6 Mar]* 45

Pakistan

State Minister Confirms Nuclear Capability *[FRONTIER POST 17 Mar]* 46
'Defiant Tone' on Nuclear Stance Seen *[FRONTIER POST 17 Mar]* 46
Editorial Views Nuclear Capability *[THE NATION 17 Mar]* 47
Spokesman—No Defense Cuts Foreseen *[THE NEWS 16 Mar]* 48
Khan, Sharif Attend General Headquarters Briefings *[Islamabad TV]* 48
Foreign Exchange Reserves Reach $430 Million *[Islamabad Radio]* 49
Islamic Party Not To Withdraw From Alliance *[Islamabad Radio]* 49
Sharif Seeking 'Era of Cooperation' With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 49
'Contradictions' in India's Nuclear Stance Seen *[THE MUSLIM 16 Mar]* 49
Envoy to U.S.—Flow of Spare Parts To Continue *[THE MUSLIM 18 Mar]* 50
Trade Protocol Signed With Uzbekistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Hekmatyar Urges Kabul Forces to Topple Najibollah *[THE FRONTIER POST 18 Mar]* 51

Sri Lanka

AFP: Tamil Tigers Make Fresh Peace Offer 51
Details Reported *[LANKAPUVATH]* 52
'Heavy' LTTE Casualties in Mannar Battle *[LANKAPUVATH]* 52
Senior LTTE Military Wing Leader Surrenders *[Colombo Radio]* 53
Police Hunt for LTTE Hit Squad Members *[Colombo Radio]* 53
Prime Minister: No Kickbacks in Airbus Purchase *[AFP]* 53
Denounces Related No-Confidence Move *[Colombo Radio]* 53
Bank Governor Announces Exchange Control Reforms *[LANKAPUVATH]* 54

Israel

A bomb attack against the embassy in Buenos Aires killed 10 and wounded 130 persons, Tel Aviv radio reported. The Islamic Jihad, in an announcement released in Beirut, claimed responsibility for this attack in retaliation for the "murder" of former Hizballah leader al-Musawi, Jerusalem radio noted. In a news conference reported by the radio, Levi responded: "We will do what we must" and "we will settle" accounts; "Israel will know how to find the way or ways to punish severely those responsible for those barbaric actions." Arens discussed his Washington talks with James Baker, saying the two men had a "good meeting," Jerusalem television commented. Jerusalem radio observed "It now appears that Defense Minister Arens has failed to clear up the allegations that Israel supplied U.S. military technology to China and other states without U.S. approval." Shamir, meanwhile, declared that Israel "will not give up peace negotiations despite the continuing Palestinian violence and will not change its positions even to enhance the chances of receiving loan guarantees from the United States," Jerusalem Radio noted. Elsewhere, the Knesset passed a modified bill on the direct election of the prime minister, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

The head of the delegation to the Middle East peace talks acknowledged that Palestinians are "not unified" on a planned confederation with Jordan, Algiers Voice of Palestine reported. The secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in an interview with BERLINER ZEITUNG, demanded that Middle East peace talks be suspended until Israeli elections are held in June and called for an "immediate dialogue" with Israel's Labor Party. He additionally urged a "compromise" with Labor Party leader Rabin "on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338," the newspaper continued.

Iran

The DPRK's ambassador to Tehran declared that "another North Korean ship, a commercial vessel, was heading towards the region," and he also denied that the DPRK "owned or was capable of producing nuclear weapons," in an interview with RESALAT cited by IRNA.

Iraq

Saddam addressed a military awards ceremony reported by INA in which he called for more training and military exercises, as well as higher military morale. INA additionally reported that Saddam chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Party Regional Command to discuss Tariq 'Aziz' talks with the UN Security Council. A Foreign Ministry source called on Iran to step up its repatriation of POW's and asked Tehran to "reconsider its position on this humanitarian issue," INA reported.

Jordan

President Bush's position on loan guarantees for Israel is a "politically courageous stance by a man on the threshold of an election campaign" and gives "greater credibility to U.S. Middle East policy," observed an editorial in AL-DUSTUR.

Egypt

Hafiz al-Asad, while in Cairo, called for an "emergency Arab summit to adopt a unified Arab stand on the peace process," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Lebanon

Two German hostages will be released "within a week" according to Beirut radio, which cited AL-SAFIR. Beirut and Syria are working to secure the release "as a sign of goodwill" on the part of the pro-Iranian kidnappers, Voice of Lebanon stated, in citing REUTER.

Afghanistan

The Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (IUPA) spokesman stated that IUPA fighters carried out "large-scale and successful offensives" against Mazar-e Sharif, the largest and most important town in the country's north, Iranian television reported. IUPA forces are operating inside the town and have surrounded the government's 18th Division, the television continued.

Pakistan

The minister of state for foreign affairs, commenting on Islamabad's nuclear program, said "we have certain technical capability" which is "entirely for peaceful purposes," the FRONTIER POST noted.

Sudan

The foreign minister, in an interview with SUNA, termed as "baseless" reports "which quote U.S. officials" that Sudan is a "center for terrorists" or that it supports international terrorism. He affirmed that his nation does not permit "terrorist elements" on its territory, the agency continued.

Saudi Arabia

In a statement issued to SPA and cited by Riyadh radio, a "responsible source" refuted remarks by King Husayn alleging that Saudi Arabia is funding fundamentalists in Jordan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Delegate Addresses Arab League Council

LD1703203592 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, al-Rabi' [March] 17, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Great Jamahariyah's representative and president of the 96th session of the Council of the Arab League praised the stance adopted by the Arab countries on the side of the Great Jamahariyah in resisting the neo-colonialist onslaught which is directed at the Arab nation and threatens its existence.

In a speech given yesterday on his appointment as president of the 96th session of the Arab League Council he said that in line with the civilised stance and wise and rational policy followed by the Great Jamahariyah in dealing with the Pan Am Airline incident, the Great Jamahariyah had put forward all willingess to deal with this matter within the framework of international impartial jurisdiction, hoping to expose the truth and showing her commitment to the principles of international law.

The Great Jamahariyah's representative, who is also the president of the 96th session of the Arab League Council, requested in his speech that the joint Arab defense treaty and other such Arab treaties which represent the policy adopted to improve the nations abilities, and to establish its security with its own forces should be implemented.

He said that the Arab nation still faces the same economic and political problems such as the Zionist enemy which continues its occupation of the Arab land and refuses to answer to United Nations resolutions and continues to carry out daily attacks on the Lebanese cities and villages.

He said that as Arabs we are powerless until now to adopt a positive affective role to support Lebanon in the face of Zionist aggression.

Yemen Asks Egypt To Mediate With Gulf States

PM1803094392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 92 p 2

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Yemen Seeks Egypt's Mediation To Improve Its Relations With Gulf States']

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has asked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to help in improving relations between Yemen and the Gulf states. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's Office for Political Affairs, conveyed to President Mubarak a message from the Yemeni president nearly a week ago.

Meanwhile, Egyptian diplomatic circles have ruled out the convening of an Egyptian-Yemeni summit between Presidents Mubarak and Salih in Cairo this month.

The circles pointed out that relations between Cairo and Sanaa have never reached a crisis level despite the difference between the two countries' position on the Gulf crisis.

The circles said that there is an inclination to resume implementing the agreements signed between the two countries, which are currently deadlocked. The Egyptian and Yemeni sides are expected to agree soon on setting a date for the joint higher committee's second session under the two countries' prime ministers. It has been postponed since the start of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

U.S. Trying To Keep Arab Negotiators 'Weak'

PM1303145392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 13

[By George Sam'an: "The U.S. Yardstick"]

[Text] Even if some Arabs believe that the U.S. Administration is really serious about finding a just settlement for the Middle East question, and that there are real differences on that matter between U.S. and Israeli policies, no Arab should for one moment suspect that such differences between the two states could extend to the security and military fields. Whatever is said about Israel's diminishing importance in U.S. strategy following the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the destruction of the Iraqi arsenal, there can be no doubt about Washington's commitment to the security of that state.

Kuwait's war of liberation gave the United States the opportunity to launch the Middle East peace conference, after dealing a blow to the minimum level of strategic balance between the Arabs and Israel by hitting Iraq's power, just as it dealt a blow to the minimum level of Arab solidarity. Washington has spoken much of its "great service" to Tel Aviv in that respect. For that service to continue effectively in the course of the negotiations to settle the Middle East conflict, President George Bush's administration introduced a plan for a "Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction."

Immediately after Iraq's defeat, Egypt opposed a Security Council move to pass resolutions calling for the destruction of the Iraqi arsenal. It insisted that that should be done as part of a general plan covering all states of the region, especially Israel. Regardless of whether or not the ultimate aim U.S. is the elimination of mass destruction weapons from the Middle East, either after a settlement is achieved or in the course of achieving/a settlement, what is now taking place and the possibility of U.S. interception of a Korean missile shipment for Syria and Iran indicate that the United States wants to maintain the current balance of power. In fact, its actions are aimed at freezing Arab power at the present level. Such an attitude would be understandable if it applied to all parties to the conflict in the region, despite the current imbalance.

However, when the Arabs are not given the same rights as Israel, the Arab governments, although participating in the direct negotiations, are bound to doubt U.S. credibility and U.S. plans for a just peace in the region. If the Yitzhaq Shamir government's argument is that the Arabs are negotiating from a position of "weakness and defeat" and should therefore give in to the "strong and victorious" party, the United States is in fact supporting the position of that "strong" party by insisting that Israel should remain the only state in the region that has a nuclear deterrent and by giving it all kinds of military aid which, as Secretary James Baker recently said, cannot be touched.

It supports the "strong" party even more when it denies the Arabs, and Syria in particular, the chance of getting missiles that would make the Hebrew state think two or three times before committing aggression against its neighbors. At the same time, Washington is helping Israel to develop ABM missiles. Israel already has intercontinental missiles which could threaten most of the Arab world, and even southern Europe and parts of the former Soviet Union.

The U.S. line is clear in this controversy or dual-yardstick approach. It is that the Arab negotiator should remain weak and should not become strong enough to be able to threaten the military option, because that would make it easier to impose settlements or solutions without resistance or armed force. The occupier is not content with having a superior arsenal. He insists on keeping the Golan and links his deterrent power to his control of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied territories.

A refusal to give Israel loan guarantees is insufficient evidence of U.S. goodwill. What is required is a U.S. understanding of Arab security concerns, if the Arabs are to believe that it really understands their rights and is working for a just settlement and a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Admit Disunity on Jordan Confederation

LD1703194792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said yesterday that Palestinians are not unified on a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan. He added at an open meeting called by the Arab journalists association in Jerusalem that the Palestinian situation—as it is and as we live it—lacks a united Palestinian position, which we desperately need. He pointed out that while he does not reject the principle of confederalism, we must wait until we have achieved an independent state.

Although Faysal al-Husayni [head of the advisory council to the Palestinian peace talks delegation] did not contradict 'Abd-al-Shafi, he was less categorical, saying that there is no agreement among all the parties and adding that the confederation proposal seeks to solve a particular problem that will arise after independence. 'Abd-al-Shafi believes that the Palestinian-Israeli talks have reached an impasse.

Jordan Supports Proposal

TA1703140192 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Mar 92 p 1

["Exclusive" AL-QUDS report]

[Text] Amman—A diplomatic source has said that King Husayn, in his meeting with U.S. President George Bush, discussed announcing a confederation with the Palestinians within the next few days. The source added that Jordan will agree to the Palestinian proposal which has been discussed in previous meetings with a number of Palestinian officials.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said recently that the confederation will not be announced for at least a month. Arab officials affirmed, however, that contacts are under way between Jordanian and Palestinian officials on this issue, which has the approval of both parties, and that the confederation will be at the top of the agenda of the Palestine Central Council, which is expected to convene in Tunis after 'Id al-Fitr.

DFLP Head Urges 'Immediate Dialogue' With Rabin

AU1303123592 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 9 Mar 92 p 7

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, by Herbert Franz in Damascus; date not given: "A Compromise Would Be Possible With Rabin"]

[Text] [Franz] The Middle East negotiations are proceeding without you....

[Hawatimah] Since 1973 we have been in favor of negotiations with Israel. We were the first in the PLO to call for reconciliation and a compromise. In the fall we agreed in the PLO Central Council to support participation in the Middle East conference. We cannot accept the Madrid formula, however. Palestinians from Jerusalem and the diaspora must also participate in the talks. The Madrid formula brings us nothing, only autonomy—but not the end of occupation, not a stop to Israeli settlements or the right to our own riches.

[Franz] Why are you so sure that the Palestinians will gain nothing?

[Hawatimah] What will we negotiate later if Israel builds more and more new settlements? Autonomy is to last for six years for the time being. Afterward, not a piece of land will be left for us. Take a look at the present statistics: As much as 54 percent of the West Bank and

32 percent of the Gaza Strip are controlled by Jewish settlers. And Jerusalem, which is supposed to belong to Israel forever, takes up almost one-quarter of the West Bank.

[Franz] What do you propose?

[Hawatimah] Not I, but my people will force a change. They will exercise pressure so that the Madrid concept is corrected and the UN resolutions on Israel's withdrawal are put on the agenda. Many things are happening in the world. Only the United States is in favor of excluding the Palestinians from Jerusalem and the diaspora. All others want another formula. The EC is looking for a new role in the Middle East, in its neighboring region. As early as May people from the diaspora are supposed to sit on the committees of the multilateral talks. Thus, the situation is not hopelessly frozen. Things can move step by step.

[Franz] However, recently nothing has been moving in Washington....

[Hawatimah] Yes, because the Israeli Government still rejects the Palestinians as a people. This reminds me of South Africa. There the whites at first also did not want to share with the blacks. But the African National Congress continued its struggle and now whites and blacks talk to each other.

[Franz] A white president who is prepared for reforms had his share in this. Do you hope for a De Klerk in Israel?

[Hawatimah] In its election platform the Labor Party wants peace. It is better than the Likud. Its top candidate, Rabin, wants to stop the construction of settlements and to implement autonomy in six to nine months. These are positive signals. Therefore, we demand that the Middle East talks be suspended until the Israeli elections have been held in June. If the negotiations are continued now this will only increase the Likud's chances. Then the Israelis will believe Shamir and think that they might really get land and peace at the same time, but that is an illusion.

[Franz] Would you talk to Rabin before the elections?

[Hawatimah] I am in favor of an immediate dialogue with the Labor Party. This also applies if the PLO as a whole does not want this. We should seek a compromise with Rabin, a compromise on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. What Rabin said about a stop to settlements opens up horizons for serious talks.

[Franz] But what will happen if nothing changes?

[Hawatimah] If things continue as they have for the past four months the peace process will be frustrated. If the United States insists on the Madrid formula, this will strengthen the Palestinian fundamentalists and weaken the Palestinian democrats.

[Franz] You released the body of an Israeli soldier. Do you know anything about the fate of the other six missing persons?

[Hawatimah] We do not have the others. They were taken prisoner by Hizballah and Amal in Lebanon in the eighties. Five of them are dead. I do not have any exact information on the sixth, navigator Ron Arad. We are prepared, however, to play the role of mediator between the United Nations and the Lebanese groups. We want to help to solve this humanitarian problem. Before we returned the body of Sergeant Samir As'ad to Israel we had had talks with Hizballah, Amal, and the Red Cross. We wanted a comprehensive exchange (of the seven soldiers for about 300 imprisoned Lebanese and Palestinians—Herbert Franz) and we took the first step. Unfortunately, the matter was subsequently delayed. But I am still in contact with all sides, even with Israel through the United Nations.

[Franz] You are probably not able to do anything for the German hostages....

[Hawatimah] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine could very well play a concrete role if the German Government demands this. We want to contribute to mediation between Hizballah and Bonn. But several Middle East states will probably have a say in this affair. We have good connections with friends in Lebanon who can influence Hizballah.

PLO's Qaddumi Assesses U.S. Pressure on Israel

LD1603225392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Statement to Voice of Palestine radio by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] What is happening in Washington, particularly concerning the negotiations, should be looked into in detail. In fact, these negotiations have not yet reached the stage of negotiations on essential issues. We believe that Israel is trying to gain time. Israel has resorted to the general elections to escape pursuing these negotiations in a serious way. This is because these negotiations should lead to a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Israel has been exposed to U.S. pressure to stop settlements. However, we must view this U.S. pressure as pressure between allies. We are not very optimistic about this pressure because the United States remains absolutely committed to Israel and to the security of Israel. This pressure might not reach the level of forcing Israel to withdraw from all the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories.

The United States knows very well, however, that the key to war and peace in the region lies in the hand of the Palestinian people. The regional stability needed by the United States to continue its control of this region and of

its wealth and oil resources cannot be achieved as long as the tension created by the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict continues.

Hence the U.S. interests are trying to stop the Israeli greed, which wants to settle in all the Palestinian territories and in a part of the Arab territories, so that it will be said that the United States has exercised pressure on Israel to withdraw partially from these territories, and then the Arabs will accept the normalization of relations with Israel and at the same time Israel will become a legitimate entity after the Arabs recognize it.

If the withdrawal—a complete withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories—does not take place, then all this U.S. pressure will not convince the Palestinians and Arabs that the United States really desires to establish a just and permanent peace in the region.

These negotiations, which are called negotiations, have not reached the stage of negotiations on issues of substance, and they are still, like their predecessors, continuing at a local position, meaning that they have not moved from their original position.

Before anything else we must see an end to the settlement policy. Without this end of the settlement policy the whole peace process will be destroyed. There will never be any tangible results as long as Israel carries out terrorist operations against our people, not to mention escalating these terrorist operations, and as long as it continues to defy international public opinion by building more settlements.

We should not have any illusions or think that the U.S. demands are 100- percent serious until we see with our own eyes that the United States has stopped the settlements and exerted pressure on Israel to withdraw from all the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

As for the saying that there should be a compromise over the borders to which Israel withdraws, this is a blurring of the withdrawal principle. Discussing any subject before stopping the settlement policy is also a matter which deviates the peace process from its correct path.

The basic condition for establishing a just and permanent peace is the complete stopping of the settlement policy, and a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. Any U.S. or Israeli prevarication over this matter means that we will not attain peace.

Concentrating on the settlement policy does not mean that we should repeat at every round of negotiations that we would like to stop the settlement policy. All the issues that we submit, from the need to stop Israeli terrorist practices; protecting our people; international supervision; to human rights, all these issues concern the settlement policy as preliminary procedures for entering negotiations on substantive matters.

Therefore, we must use all methods to expose all of Israel's terrorist practices and to reveal the features of this new world order under which the United States claims that it wants democracy and to protect human rights and remove racial discrimination. We must show that all these crimes are being committed by Israel inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

We must never be deceived by slogans because we can see that countries which are friendly to the United States are not required by the United States to put into effect these slogans. As they say: The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

We are for peace, but we cannot be deceived. America is a friend of Israel and not of us. It is in the interest of America to have stability in the region. If America wants stability, then there should be a complete withdrawal by Israel and a complete end to settlement policy. We will not be deceived and say that the United States has changed and has become our friend.

The United States is now controlling many of the situations in the world. This is what makes us respond to it—so as not to be in direct conflict with the United States. However, we are not ready to concede a single grain of our soil or any of our rights, or to imagine that the United States has become a friend of the Arabs. This is in fact because our interests are different. We do not want to be in direct conflict with the United States, however. We do not want anything whatsoever more than our rights. When we attain all of our rights we will establish normal relations.

We know that Israel is the origin of the war and tension in the region. We also know that in the region Israel is a foreign body which did not begin in a natural way like the other communities. Therefore, it will continue to rely on aggression and terrorism to preserve its existence.

Al-Quds Radio Praises Yafo Attack

JN1703195192 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] According to reports from the valiant city of Yafo, two Zionist settlers were killed and about 18 other settlers were injured when two heroic Palestinian young men attacked a group of Zionist settlers in Yafo with knives and axes. The reports also indicate that one of the two persons who carried out the courageous operation was martyred, while the other was arrested. Initial reports state that the heroic martyr lived in the al-Daraj quarter of Gaza.

Our correspondent reported later on the heroic, courageous operation carried out by the two young men in Yafo. He identified the heroic martyr as Ra'id Muhammad Salih al-Rifi, 21, and the arrested young

man as Khalid Abu-'Asr, 28. They lived in Gaza's al-Bakriyah neighborhood of the al-Daraj quarter.

Our correspondent added that the heroic martyr had been in administrative detention for six and eight months, respectively, in 1987 and 1990 on charges of membership in the Islamic Jihad movement. The martyr was married and had three daughters and one son.

Our correspondent learned that the heroic martyr was determined to attain martyrdom after the birth of his son, Salih. He recently spoke a great deal about martyrdom and martyrs. It should be mentioned that his father, Muhammad, 55, was martyred in Negev Prison in 1989. The Zionists claimed that he had a heart attack.

Report Notes 'Heroic Operation' Near Nabulus

LD1603231392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] An Israeli military spokesman has admitted the heroic operation carried out by the men of the Palestinian strike forces in the occupied territory, in Askar camp, near Nabulus, when Palestinian armed men surprised the occupation forces with intense gunfire.

The clash continued, and three of the heroes being pursued were martyred, while a fourth activist was wounded and taken prisoner by the enemy forces. The three heroic martyrs are: 'Abd-al-Salam Na'im Lahham, age 24; Hajjaj Ibrahim Hajjaj, age 19; and 'Imad Mahmud Bisharah, age 21. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Court Jails L'HEBDO-LIBERE Director

LD1703211892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The press has been on trial lately: Abderrahman Mahmoudi, director of the L'HEBDO-LIBERE weekly, was jailed today after a first appearance before being questioned by the investigating judge following a complaint against him by a judge. [sentence as heard]

Mouloud Brahimi, his lawyer, said there is nothing which justifies jailing the defendant in terms of preventive arrest or in terms of the case. The lawyer considers this unacceptable, particularly because the defendant undertook to supply originals of the article that he published in issue 49 of the weekly which entirely clear him.

The article in question attacked Judge Abderrahim Kharroubi, asserting that he was a Liberation Front federation member in France while serving as an employee of the Social Security Fund in Morocco.

Source Comments on Minister's Reaction

LD1803024592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] It was learned from a source close to the Ministry of Culture and Liaison that Minister Aboubakr Belkaid expressed his astonishment following the arrest of the director of the L'HEBDO-LIBERE weekly on 17 March.

The same source pointed out that the minister expressed his concern with regard to the dangers of exploiting this case, which can make one believe that there is an activity which obstructs the freedom of the press.

The same source added that he reaffirmed that the methods of the government had not changed and that it believed that freedom of the press was necessary, that one cannot do without it as far as democracy is concerned. The source also said that the minister expressed the hope that Mr. Abderrahman Mahmoudi would soon obtain bail from the judiciary.

Two Policemen Shot Dead in Boufarik

LD1703203392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the General Directorate of National Security on 17 March; place not given]

[Text] On 17 March 1992 at 0300 two policemen were killed at the exit from the town of Boufarik. They were in their patrol car when they came under fire from an automatic weapon from unidentified individuals in a passing car. This car is currently being sought.

The two policemen were assassinated in a savage manner. Both were 30 years old, and one was the father of three children.

There is no doubt that this criminal act is linked to other criminal acts in the past few months which have bloodied various regions of the national territory.

Citizens are urged to cooperate to liquidate these armed and harmful groups, which have clear objectives concerning civil peace, the security of property and persons, and also the stability of the state.

We welcome any information, which we ask citizens to pass to any police or gendarmerie station.

Egypt

Syrian President al-Asad Visits Cairo for Talks

Received at Airport

NC1703134192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak led the delegation receiving the Syrian president at Cairo Airport. Following a short rest, Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad left for al-Qubbah Presidential Palace.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Confer

NC1703221092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] This evening, President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a separate meeting at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis that lasted over an hour. Members of the Egyptian and Syrian delegations then joined them. The Egyptian delegation included Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Egyptian Ambassador to Syria Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-Aziz. The Syrian delegation included Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

The talks generally focused on the peace process, the latest developments in the Middle East, and Arab relations. Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad held another separate meeting after the expanded talks.

After the separate meeting between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the talks focused on the peace process. He noted that Egyptian-Syrian talks will resume tomorrow morning to discuss other topics of common concern, such as regional issues, the situation in the region, and aspects of joint cooperation.

In response to a question on whether there are new developments in the peace talks, Musa stressed that the expanded talks dealt with the outcome of the recent bilateral talks in Washington and their continuation. He pointed out that all talks within the context of the peace process were discussed, along with the various aspects of the Syrian-Israeli, Palestinian-Israeli, Jordanian-Israeli, and Lebanese-Israeli talks. These talks demonstrated that there is a clear trend to continue the peace process on the basis of the land-for-peace principle, which cannot be abandoned.

On whether the venue of the Arab-Israeli talks was discussed, Musa said that the Egyptian-Syrian talks will resume tomorrow to complete discussion of all aspects of this process and discuss other topics.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1845 GMT on 17 March in a similar report adds: "Earlier, President Mubarak hosted a banquet breaking the fast at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis in honor of President al-Asad and his delegation."]

'Special Importance' of Visit Noted

JN1703203992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] In an exclusive statement to SANA, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that when Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad meet, they usually have no specific agenda to follow. The relations and cooperation between the two sides, he explained, allow for discussion of all issues of concern to the two fraternal countries and to the Arab nation. The two presidents can discuss any subject of interest to the two countries and to all Arabs, he said.

Mr. al-Sharif said peace in the Middle East will be at the center of the two presidents' attention, because they are working to restore rights and to defend the rights of the nation under the current, complicated circumstances. The meeting of the two presidents, he said, is of special importance under these circumstances. Egyptian-Syrian cooperation can only serve Arab rights, he added.

Commenting on the peace talks, whose fourth round ended without any progress toward the main point of discussion, Mr. al-Sharif said that Arab rights are obvious, and can never be relinquished. We have to attract new elements every day to add to the strength of the Arab negotiators, he said, adding that there can be no relinquishment of lands or rights, but further insistence on land and rights, and endeavors to establish the principle of land for peace. Our sharp weapon, Mr. al-Sharif said, is to insist on our land and rights, and to add to the strength of the Arab side of the peace process.

Al-Asad Receives Libyan Envoy

JN1803111492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Media team dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpts] His excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their talks at the Egyptian Presidential Palace at 1015 today. [passage omitted]

His excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan representative to the Arab League, at the al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo at 0930 today. Al-Turayki delivered a letter from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, to his excellency the president. His excellency the president asked him to convey a reply.

Following the meeting, al-Turayki made a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY. He said: I delivered a letter from leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the Arab state of affairs, and the threats against Libya. As usual, the president voiced the noble sentiments that Syria harbors toward the Arab Jamahiriyah. Al-Turayki said: Contacts between Presidents al-Asad and al-Qadhdhafi continue. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Mubarak To Resume Talks

JN1803063192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. The media team accompanying President Hafiz al-Asad greets you from Cairo.

President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt has entered its second day. President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are scheduled to resume their talks this morning.

President al-Asad and President Mubarak held two meetings yesterday, one of them closed. The expanded meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Egyptian Ambassador to Syria Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-Aziz Mursi; and Dr. Mustafa al-Faqi, Presidential Office chief of information

The talks dealt with some of the developments in the region, primarily the peace process and the stages it has covered so far. Agreement was made to pursue the talks this morning. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Seeks 'Emergency Arab Summit'

JN1803070192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will hold a second session of talks in Cairo this morning to pursue discussion of the

developments in the peace process in light of the current regional and international stands.

The two presidents held a first session yesterday evening, during which they comprehensively reviewed the peace process, whose fourth round recently ended in Washington.

It has been learned from ranking diplomatic sources that President al-Asad said he is not optimistic that tangible progress will be made in the negotiations so long as Israel maintains its intransigent stand. Al-Asad also believes that the state of division and fragmentation within the Arab nation is one of the major factors encouraging Israeli intransigence.

The Syrian president emphasized the need to hold an emergency Arab summit to adopt a unified Arab stand on the peace process. It has also been learned that President Mubarak asked al-Asad to continue with the bilateral negotiations, and promised to exert efforts with the concerned international parties to bring pressure to bear on Israel.

Al-Asad Departs

NC1803124292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation left Cairo this afternoon after a two-day visit to Egypt, during which they held important talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest situation in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

President al-Asad was seen off at Cairo Airport by President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Editorial on 'Arab Solidarity'

NC1803045892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—In its editorial on 18 March, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH discusses Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak. It says that this meeting is within the framework of continued coordination between the two fraternal countries to advance the peace process and restore Arab solidarity to its former strength, which led to the great Arab victory on 10 Ramadan [6 October] 19 years ago.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that it is only natural that the Ramadan summit deal with the latest developments in the peace process, and assess the previous round of bilateral and multilateral negotiations to regain Arab rights and well-being, security, and peace for the region's peoples,and to secure full implementation of the land-for-peace principle as approved by the international community and legitimacy. The paper says that the region is full of hope for a bright future, in which a comprehensive and just peace will prevail. The meeting in Cairo between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad confirms both leaders' interest in confronting the obstacles and intransigence of those who are trying to stop the peace process. Through Arab solidarity and joint action, right and peace will eventually win.

Foreign Minister Warns of Regional Destabilization

AU1603153692 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 16 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Peter Gerner in Cairo; date not given: "No Participation in Saddam's Overthrow"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gerner] In the final analysis, was the Gulf war not also an attempt to get Arab resources—oil—under Western, or more precisely, American control?

[Musa] This theory certainly exists. However, if one gets to the bottom of the causes of the war, one will see that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait triggered the conflict.

[Gerner] Do you expect further pressure on Israel if George Bush remains U.S. President?

[Musa] A superpower has strategic interests. We are of the opinion that Bush will stick to his present course. We are also of the opinion, however, that the political climate in the United States has changed in favor of peace, justice, and the lawfulness of the Palestinian cause. A line has been crossed. Nothing can be undone any longer. The principle is land for peace.

Even if Israeli Prime Minister Shamir were to stick to his negative attitude and the peace process were to be frustrated, this would not mean that he would be able to live happily in the occupied territories. There would be permanent unrest in the whole region. Nobody will accept the occupied territories remaining under Israeli rule.

Our opinion is: Israel exists and has rights. But Israel has no rights as far as the occupied Palestinian territories or the Golan Heights are concerned. Precisely in the interest of the "new world order," the destabilization of the whole region must be avoided. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is not in jeopardy, though.

Editorial Urges Bush Policy Be Given Chance

NC1603075692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 16 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's AL-AKHBAR editorial notes that when President George Bush first launched his campaign for a lasting and real Middle East peace, which led to the Madrid Conference, many parties who had followed U.S. policy since the birth of Israel in 1948, and who knew about the special relations between Washington and Tel Aviv, had some suspicions. They saw this

campaign as just another deception. Two days ago, however, President Bush said loudly and clearly that the Palestinian issue must be resolved if a just peace is to be attained, adding that if if the issue remains unresolved, the region will remain in constant tension and turmoil. We must not, therefore, misjudge the intentions of this President, who has dared to speak, something his White House predecessors failed to do.

The paper concludes by saying: Let us give the man a chance to prove his own credibility and the credibility of the superpower he represents.

Assembly Speaker Meets DPRK Vice President

NC1503162392 Cairo MENA in English 1127 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur received North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok at his office today.

The meeting dealt with means of bolstering the friendly relations linking the two countries, and boosting cooperation in various domains.

The two sides also agreed on exchanging parliamentary visits.

DPRK Deputy Premier Arrives for Visit

NC1703215692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2036 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—Kim Tal-hyon, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign trade, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days.

During his visit he will hold talks with Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and other senior officials to bolster bilateral trade ties. Upon arrival, the DPRK official said that his visit is aimed at finding solutions to obstacles facing the promotion of bilateral trade ties. He praised the high level of bilateral political ties, and voiced his hope that economic ties will reach the same level. He noted that he will discuss new horizons for trade activities between the two countries.

Libya

Editor Assails 'Pressure' on Security Council

LD1703213192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Mar (JANA)—JANA's political editor has commented on the pressure placed by the U.S., British, and French ambassadors on Security Council members to force them to approve a resolution drafted by the three countries. The editor said:

We have learned that the members of the Security Council are complaining of the pressure put on them by the U.S., British, and French ambassadors and their delegates to force them to approve a resolution drafted by the three countries—not by the Security Council, which is not guilty of its drafting, because the resolution was drafted at the foreign ministries of the three countries. The resolution bans the sale of arms to Libya, which has no need to purchase armaments, but as a sovereign country, has the right to purchase arms to defend itself. This is one of its legitimate rights, as is the case for all the other countries.

The three countries are determined to prevent arms from reaching Libya, bearing in mind that Libya did not invade any other country and did not threaten world peace. Therefore, the aim behind this pressure is known, and consists of depriving the Arabs of arms in favor of Israel, which is heavily armed, in order to devour the unarmed Arabs at a time it chooses and on a golden tray. We have too high an opinion of the Security Council to suspect that its members are trying to transform it into an opponent of the Arabs for the benefit of other sides, especially as it is the Arabs who are in need of the protection of the Security Council, because of the threats they face due to the weapons of mass destruction owned by Israel, knowing that the three countries—Britain, America, and France—are supplying it on a daily basis with the most sophisticated arms and the latest military technology.

The political editor further said: The resolution was drafted at the foreign ministries of the three countries, whose ambassadors and delegates are endeavoring to force the Security Council members to sign under the pretext that Libya did not respond to Security Council Resolution 731—a matter devoid of truth, because the resolution did not ask Libya to hand over its citizens. The Security Council deems itself well above issuing such a resolution. It is unreasonable to ask a country to hand its citizens over to another, and this is the conviction of the Security Council member-countries—apart from the three countries—as it has been expressed by its delegates, because this draft resolution represents a dangerous precedent which is a contravention and a breach of international laws and conventions, the UN Charter, and international legitimacy, because these countries might one day be faced with this request. The members had stressed that Resolution 731 required Libya to cooperate in the legal inquiries, which Libya did, and that it is the three countries which did not respond and did not cooperate.

Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1603213692 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, prime minister, and minister of the interior, arrived with his delegation in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was at the forefront of those receiving brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih at Tripoli International Airport. [passage omitted]

Confers With Jabir

LD1603172992 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia [March] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Last night Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir received a delegation from the Popular Front for Support for the Great Jamahiriyah in sisterly Sudan.

The Sudanese delegation presented Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir with the details of the working programme which was prepared by the various popular forces in Sudan in support of the Great Jamahiriyah in [word indistinct] the neo-colonialist onslaught.

The Sudanese delegation conveyed a message from Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir to the leader of the revolution which confirmed the total willingenss of the Arab people in Sudan to defend the great civilisational achievements achieved for the Arab nation by the great al-Fatih revolution.

During this meeting the sisterly Sudanese delegation praised the civilised stance and wise policy adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah vis a vis the two airline incidents, the French and American.

They also confirmed their stand with the Great Jamahiriyah in resisting the onslaught conducted by imperialist circles in their attempts to undermine the gains achieved by the Arab and Islamic nation through the great al-Fatih revolution.

Mauritania

RDSP Wins Legislative Elections

LD1703201492 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Administrative committees continue studying the files of candidates in the 3 April Senate elections. Meanwhile, the second round of the legislative elections has ended and has decided the final composition of the National Assembly. In the legislative elections the Republican Democratic and Social Party [RDSP] won 67 seats, while independent candidates won 10. The Rally for Democracy and Union Party and the Mauritanian Renewal Party each won one seat. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister Says Terrorism Charges 'Baseless'

EA1703213792 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has denied that Sudan has become a center for terrorists or that Sudan supports international terrorism as claimed by some media which quote U.S. officials. In an interview with SUNA Mr. Sahlul said all these claims were baseless, that Sudan is an open country and does not allow terrorist elements on its territory.

Mr. Sahlul emphasized that U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Richard Cheek was aware of Sudan's true position in this respect and emphasized that the U.S. Administration had the resources to collect all the facts for itself if it so desired.

Mr. Sahlul stressed in his interview with SUNA today that the motive behind the statements concerning the presence of terrorists in Sudan was to distort Sudan's image and to sabotage its relations with neighboring countries and fraternal and friendly states.

The foreign minister clarified that Sudan would not yield to any pressure because it had chosen a course originating from its people's heritage and beliefs. As for statements by some U.S. officials about terrorism in Sudan, the minister said that Sudan would never submit to any threat, blackmail, or bargaining about its convictions. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Prosecution Concludes 'State Security Cases'

LD1403150192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Kuwait City, 14 Mar (KUNA)—Public Prosecutor Counselor Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hay al-Banay announced today that the public prosecution has concluded the investigation into state security cases which it initiated after the liberation of the country. He also announced that the prosecution will refer the cases that it has decided to bring to court to his lordship the president of the State Security Court so as to set the dates for them to be heard separately before the State Security Court's circuit courts.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Scores King Husayn on Fundamentalist Aid

LD1703231992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Excerpts] A responsible source issued a statement to SPA today in which he said:

On 14 March we heard King Husayn answer the following to a CNN correspondent's question on whether the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is financing some fundamentalist operations in Jordan: There is nothing I want to say on this point, but any financing of attempts to undermine democracy or freedom or to distort faith and religion in the name of faith and democracy is very dangerous, and if there is a financial source of the fundamentalists, then I believe that it is harming itself. When the interviewer insisted on the possibility of what he had asked coming to pass, King Husayn said: I leave the matter to you to investigate. The source added: Clearly, King Husayn's confusing answers were meant to cast doubt on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stand on the interviewer's question.

King Husayn knows better than anybody that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia disapproves of interference in anyone else's internal affairs and has never harmed any fraternal or friendly state in any way at any time in its history. King Husayn knows better than anybody the truth behind the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has supported Jordan in all fields throughout the years. In light of this we find that we must clarify the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's past stand toward Jordan with the following statement:

The aid and loans which the Kingdom has made or committed itself to giving to Jordan total about $6.5 billion. [passage omitted]

The source added: How logical is it for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to give all this support to the Jordanian Government for Jordan's development, prosperity, and stability while financing operations against Jordan? We believe that sound logic does not approve of the Jordanian king's responses, which cast doubt on the Kingdom's stand. Our providing these figures is not meant to be an effort to seek gratitude but is rather an effort to correct King Husayn's attempt to cause Jordanian citizens and the public to have doubts. This matter must be clarified.

Council of Ministers Discusses CIS Visit Results

LD1703084792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0008 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers held at 2200 today at Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

In a statement to SPA following the session, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir pointed out that at the beginning of today's session the Council read a report submitted to the custodian of the two holy mosques concerning the results of a visit paid by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, to the former Soviet Republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. The beginning of the report stated that these republics—due to a mutual desire—welcome cooperation with Saudi Arabia, express their confidence in the methods adopted by Saudi Arabia in its dealings with Islamic countries, and praise the wise and well-guided leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques. The report also says that Saudi Arabia and these republics are jointly working toward consolidating their bilateral relations in all fields of the Islamic arena.

The information minister added that the custodian of the two holy mosques praised the successful role played by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his tour of these republics in achieving good results during the visits. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Military Awards Ceremony

JN1703162492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1456 GMT 17 Mar 92

["Text" of a speech by President Saddam Husayn at a military awards ceremony on 16 March; place not given]

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, has said that no man can do something great, something whose effect goes beyond the direct personal domain, without the support of other men.

His excellency added: Likewise, no leadership can perform a historic act that goes beyond the direct personal domain, an act which would initiate a new creative process in life and in values and which would bring about a profound and comprehensive revival of our nation's spiritual heritage, without the support of a great people and a glorious nation.

This was stated at a ceremony yesterday during which the president honored a number of fighter commanders and officers of various corps and from the military and media escort of the president of the Republic, the commander in chief of the armed forces.

Concluding his remarks, the president hailed the faithful stands and the warm and highly zealous blood, especially the blood of our righteous martyrs.

His excellency also gave guidance to fighters on issues of performance, training, and discipline.

The awards ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, and Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

The following is the text of the president's remarks:

Praise be to God for your safe arrival. Many happy returns. Blessed be your month of Ramadan.

The president asked that his greetings be conveyed to the air defense men. His excellency said: As God is my witness, they are heroes. The president said: To have more firepower than on the night of 16-17 January 1991, the following points must be enacted:

First, better tactical deployment, followed by better technical deployment.

Second, the military personality should be developed through a higher level of training and exercises.

Finally, the fighters' morale should be restored to the same level that they had enjoyed, or it should be raised to a higher level.

If on the night of 16-17 January 1991 we had had 10 guns they would increase to 17 by a certain point in time. In actuality, they remained at 10, but they became, at that particular point in time, as effective as 17, which means a 70 percent increase in our firepower.

If we registered 70-percent progress, it is as though we added seven more guns to the original 10.

Based on this, we must seek to upgrade competence. It is inconceivable for one to go to war against all centers of evil in the world and come out without his experience increasing the competence of his military equipment.

The factors that make the percentage vary between this or that fighter in the air defense are the same as those in the infantry. A fighter's conduct may decrease his competence and make it less than 100 percent.

These are the same factors as in all branches of the armed forces. The differences lie only in the specialization of the branch, and we can specify the points of difference among the various branches.

The competence of an infantry fighter, or a fighter in any other branch, declines when his morale becomes low or when his training is not up to par, or when the training does not involve concentration or necessary repetition over a long period. Competence also declines when a fighter does not feel committed, when his military personality is not as fully shaped as it should be. When a fighter is overenthusiastic his commitment also becomes weaker. I am talking about the enthusiasm that makes a fighter forget the importance of true tactical and technical commitment. This overenthusiasm can cause a fighter to lose some of his competence, which should be 100 percent if he is a model fighter.

As for air defense, if the information reaches the fighter whose duty it is to direct the gun barrel at plane X in time, he will have enough time to intercept the plane at the appropriate time.

If the information supplied by the observation post about the aircraft targeting battery X appears at the same time on the battery commander's monitor, the situation will certainly be different. However, when you receive the information and then convey it to a second person, and then to the battery commander, time is wasted. The required efficiency will not be adequate because directing the gun barrel at the target was not done at the right moment.

As for the fighter in an armored or in an artillery unit, the situation will be different because each branch of the Army has its own methods.

Some civilian comrades in the Popular Army or elsewhere did not comprehend the requirements of preparing a military personality. I say that at a certain point at the beginning of the revolution that they believed the repetition of an exercise carried out by a unit in the previous year was a waste of time. They believed that the repetition of systematic teaching was a waste of time. Meanwhile, the preparation of the military personality is more than preparing the enthusiasm of a fighter.

The military personality without the enthusiasm of a fighter does not work, and the enthusiasm of a fighter

will not be valuable all by itself. If the military personality and the fighter's enthusiasm are present, all the combat goals will be achieved. If we take certain ranks such as brigadier general and colonel, these officers have forgotten certain moves because they do not carry them them out continuously. They will be confused whether to turn right or left when awarded. This is because they have not practiced this kind of training for some time because of the circumstances of war. When the time came for one of them to practice these moves he forgot them. This does not mean that he forgot them in accordance with normal rational thinking, because he can remember and knows which way to turn, but he does not do it spontaneously.

There is a basic element in the military character which says that a military person should behave spontaneously. In difficult conditions of great pressure, no imbalance should take place in his positive spontaneous behavior. For example, when they tell him that the enemy has come, he should not hide in a shelter but should instead grab his weapon and go to the fire trench. This is the way to save his life with honor and victory added to it.

But if he lacks spontaneous behavior, the human aspect in him may lead him to a condition in which he dies. He may go to the shelter and after the firefight is over he may find the rifle of the enemy soldier over his head because the enemy soldier has reached him. Therefore, we have to take care of spontaneous behavior. We can only reap the results of spontaneous behavior through correctly crystallizing the military character.

Thus, we understand the behavior of some military personnel. When one of them inserts a needle between the rifle's wood and metal to find out if the fighter has lubricated his rifle, or if he cleaned it, he does this to learn if there is dust in it. By using this needle he learns whether there is dirt in the rifle between the wood and the metal.

Today some in the military believe that this is unimportant and that the same is true for the way in which a fighter stands, speaks, sits, or behaves.

According to the general standards these issues may seem to be of minor importance and appear to be secondary, but in the military there is nothing that is secondary.

For example, it should not be said that the only important thing is for a fighter to use his rifle correctly. This is because a fighter cannot use a rifle correctly if he does not take care of his uniform. Thus, you know the difference between the military and others who could be members of a bar association or a trade union, for example.

Therefore, there is an essential difference between the military and others. May God protect you and your country, people, and nation.

May your heads remain high with pride, principles, military values, and manly values.

God be praised for your safety. Convey my best greetings to the men in all corps. No corps can work without the support of other corps, and no weapon can work without the support of other weapons.

No man can do something great, something whose effect goes beyond the direct personal domain, without the support of other men. Likewise, no leadership can perform a historic act that goes beyond the direct personal domain, an act which would initiate a new creative process in life and in values and which would bring about a profound and comprehensive revival of our nation's spiritual heritage, without the support of a great people and a glorious nation.

God bless the faithful stands and warm and high zealous blood, especially the blood of our righteous martyrs.

God be praised for everything. Accursed be the enemies, and may God place them in the circle that they deserve, which is the circle of evil, God willing.

May God put you in the place that you deserve, which is the place of profound honor and supreme values.

Saddam Says Allies 'Lost' War Against Iraq

JN1503134192 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Mar 92 p 3

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's dialogue with two unidentified commanders during a medal-awarding ceremony "last Sunday"—place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The leader president said: When the Arabs make gains the Westerners always prepare something with which to confront them. They themselves have spoken of this through their politicians and military commanders. They say: Our relationship with the Arabs has not changed since the time of the great Muhammad 'Ali Pasha. They say that when a state of Arab awakening is reached, they will do something to stop it. However, God willing, they cannot do it this time. [passage omitted]

The leader president said: You were or were not able to follow the statements by the French defense minister [Chevenement] who resigned. They planned for the aerial bombardment to last from seven to 10 days. It was then extended to two weeks, then week by week until it became one and a half months. They estimated that after seven to 10 days of bombing Iraq would inevitably surrender. That was their assessment.

Gain and loss should assume their traditional meaning—that is, their inherited human criteria. And the inherited human criteria say: In order to attack a force you need to have two to three times the size of that force. However, when you bring 15, 20, and 30 times the size of that force, you cannot claim that you are the winner.

They really lost the battle when they gathered together 28 armies and 33 states—superpowers and major powers. Meanwhile, we are a Third World country. Praise be to God for what we are.

We should not say that if we had more than 18 million this would happen and that if the area was larger that would happen. This was the situation and this number has justice on its side.

What happened in the world is a big scandal. The aggression against you was a big scandal; and the scandal cannot stop here. With the passage of time the scandal will become greater. Here is an example: If 30 youths gather to confront one youth but are unable to bring him to the ground, what will happen? They might wound or hurt him but he will emerge as the winner. Which party will public opinion champion? Who is the hero among the 31 participants? It is certainly the youth who fought alone, not the 30 youths who were against him.

This is our situation in simple words. They lost the war when they decided to wage the war, because what took place is unfamiliar on the human level. The meanest people will not sympathize with them because when those people no longer hold official posts, they will say: We confess before God that what we did against Iraq has never before taken place. They will also say: Iraq is the one which triumphed over us.

People sometimes look beneath their feet and measure things inaccurately. The circumstances in which people live sometimes prevent them from looking a far distance.

By God, the situation was difficult. We cannot say that it was easy.

If we question Jasim's [one of those being decorated] position in accordance with the information that we have talked about, I say:

Jasim is among you, and among other men in the armed forces. If we consider his position calmly, away from strong words about life and the situation in general in the country, and if we present his position to an American or a Frenchman—that is, we presented the picture alone—in a purely military manner, God only knows what this person will say about Jasim.

His position shows a form of disobedience, if the pure traditional military formula is applied, and if we take into consideration that the division commander told him to withdraw and join the regiment. The corps commander, who is the general command's envoy, also told him to withdraw.

They, however, in the depth of their hearts were pleased when he answered as he did. Technically they were eager to have him join the regiment, but they were all pleased by the spirit with which he behaved.

I am sure that all men are pleased with this behavior, even those who were prevented by circumstance from adopting such a position. This is because they know that such a position and spirit represent them. They hope for and want such a position and spirit. This is the opportunity that they are looking for.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Tariq 'Aziz Mission

JN1703203392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The conferees listened to a report on the meetings that the Iraqi delegation under Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held with the UN Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, and Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, an adviser to the president of the Republic.

Saddam Meets Tariq 'Aziz, Industry Officials

JN1803114792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met today with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's adviser; and officials from the industrial sector.

'Aziz on Right To Become 'Major Military Power'

JN1603123792 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in an interview published today that his country will not give up its right to become a major military power even though it intends to cooperate with the United States [as heard] in destroying existing weapons of mass destruction.

In an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST 'Aziz reaffirmed promises to the UN Security Council that Iraq was complying with key post-Gulf war resolutions. The Iraqi deputy prime minister also said that with the exception of the United States and Britain, the Council has a better understanding of Baghdad's position regarding the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The POST said the interview was conducted Saturday night in New York before he left for Baghdad.

Mr. 'Aziz arrived in Amman from New York last night en route home.

India's UN Envoy Receives Tariq 'Aziz

BK1703103292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Gharekhan, has had talks with the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, in New York. The talks, held at Mr. 'Aziz's request, covered the situation in Iraq and Baghdad's response to the Security Council resolutions.

The Indian representative was the only ambassador in the Security Council who advocated increasing humanitarian aid to Baghdad and adding more items to the list of commodities which can pass through the UN-imposed embargo against Iraq.

'Source' Asks Iran To Review Stand on POW's

JN1703155592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Al-Mundhiriyah, 17 Mar (INA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has affirmed that Iraq has a serious desire to implement the recent accord reached with Iran in Geneva on 14 February under the supervision of the International Red Cross [IRC]. In a statement today to an INA correspondent at the place where the exchange of the POW's will take place in al-Mundhiriyah, the Foreign Ministry source said that the agreement calls for resolving all issues related to POW's, searching for MIA's, and handing over the bodies of martyrs as soon as possible apart from the principle of reciprocity set down in the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 in terms of measures to tackle humanitarian cases.

The Iraqi source said: In 1990 Iraq returned to Iran 37,530 Iranian POW's over 28 days, or 1,340 prisoners each day. He added that Iraq received 37,932 Iraqi POW's in the same period, or 1,355 prisoners each day. In addition to this a few were returned by each side from time to time.

The source noted that a number of the Iranian POW's in Iraq refused to return to Iran of their own free will. Those Iranian POW's who announced this in front of the IRC representatives were taken out of the POW camps and became refugees in Iraq.

The Iraqi source said that in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the Iraqi Government is obliged to respect their will and not force them to return. The IRC is fully aware of this.

The source said that in order to demonstrate more concern for tackling this issue with seriousness and responsibility, the Iraqi authorities last week asked the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to once again see the Iranians who had refused to return to their country to see if any of them had changed their minds and expressed a desire to return home.

The source added that Iraq is committed to repatriating any of these Iranians as soon as he expresses a willingness to return. Moreover, Iraq emphasized before and is emphasizing today that it has no single Iranian POW held against his will, and that Iraq, in cooperation with the ICRC, will do its best to search for and repatriate the remains of Iranians killed in the war, as stipulated by the agreement.

The Foreign Ministry official source emphasized that the Iranian Government, as stipulated by the recent Geneva agreement, is committed to repatriating all Iraqi POW's held in Iran whether or not they are registered. According to certain information and to the estimates of many international humanitarian organizations, these number in the tens of thousands. Iran is also committed to returning the bodies of Iraqi martyrs and is making efforts to search for MIA's.

The source said that Iraq was surprised at the Iranian announcement a few days ago that Iran would hand over only 100 POW's every two days. This is not commensurate with the large number of Iraqi POW's remaining in Iran and is not in harmony with the text and spirit of the agreement signed by the Iranian Government in Geneva and its commitment to the Third Geneva Convention, despite the knowledge that the two countries are able to facilitate the return of thousands of Iraqi POW's daily, as was evident in 1990.

The source said that the Iranians have not yet observed this agreement although four days have passed since the handover was to begin.

The source said Iraq still hopes that the Iranian Government will reconsider its position on this humanitarian issue, proceeding from it international commitments, neighborly relations, and the principles of Islam. Iraq hopes that Iran will speed up the return of POW's to their families, relatives, and friends, especially because we are in the blessed month of Ramadan, which is a month of virtue, blessing, and good deeds and which provides a great opportunity for such a major humanitarian move.

The INA correspondent at the border site of al-Mundhiriyah, where the transfer is due to take place, said that the Iranians have failed to hand over the Iraqi POW's who were due to have been returned Saturday, despite full preparations on the Iraqi side and the contacts held by the ICRC representative with the two sides from al-Mundhiriyah. No POW's were handed over on those days.

The correspondent cited an informed source as saying that the contacts between the two sides are continuing through the ICRC to accomplish the operation.

Paper Scores 'Dawdling' on Exchange

JN1703113892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has criticized Iran's dawdling in fulfilling its commitment to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to hand over Iraqi prisoners of war.

In an article today the paper, the organ of the Defense Ministry, notes the pretexts that Iran uses to obstruct the repatriation of these POW's and its claims that it wants to exchange them for Iranian POW's held in Iraq. The paper says: Iran knows full well that Iraq is not holding any Iranian POW's.

The paper expresses regret over the disappointment experienced by and the bad psychological effect on the families of the Iraqi POW's who were awaiting their sons in al-Mundhiriyah, which was agreed would be the handover point for the POW's under the supervision of the ICRC. The paper says: By doing so, Iran showed that it has no self-respect as a state.

AL-QADISIYAH reviews the situation, which surprised all those who were waiting in al-Mundhiriyah. It says: The Iranian side brought Iranian families, claiming that their sons are POW's held in Iraq. It did not, however, bring the Iraqi POW's.

In assessing the conduct of the Iranian side, the paper adds: It behaved in a deceptive manner through which it sought to present Iraq and the ICRC representatives with a fait accompli.

The paper describes this conduct as the action of terrorists and gangsters and not of a state.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH says: Through this action Tehran seeks to distort Islam and to provide justification to the Western states to introduce the Islamic example to public opinion in accordance with Iranian rituals and practices. They thus harm the spirit of Islam from which Iran has departed through delusion, falsehood, and a lack of respect for its word.

Irbil Bombing Kills Three, Wounds 27

NC1703154692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has disclosed another crime in the series of crimes perpetrated by the defeated tyrant's regime.

He affirmed that Saddam's intelligence agents placed a time bomb in Irbil city which exploded, killing three people and wounding 27 others. Talabani said that European organizations' representatives and UN forces were in Irbil when the ill-fated incident took place.

He asserted that the defeated tyrant's forces are preparing to launch a new large-scale attack against the Kurds.

Meanwhile, PUK spokesman Burhan Salih said that the Kurds are convinced that the Irbil bombing was an attempt by the evil tyrant to delay elections which the Kurdish Front has decided to hold next month.

Government Reportedly Prepares Northern Offensive

NC1403163692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The defeated regime has withdrawn all documents and files from government departments in Karkuk. It has also given a month's leave to employees of the governorate's oil refinery as a precaution against any possible new major offensive by the Kurds in the north.

The regime has pumped large quantities of oil from the Karkuk oil field to oil tanks in Baghdad and has closed oil fields in the north. The regime spread rumors about an imminent major offensive against northern towns in an attempt to instill fear among the citizens, but these rumors have not attained their goal, for all signs indicate that the Army units and the presidential guards are not prepared to wage a new adventure.

Certain sources have cited some officers and soldiers as saying that they will not be pawns in the hands of the tyrant and his henchmen if a new war breaks out, regardless of its causes. They said that the tyrant and his henchmen are only causing the Iraqi people despair and pain.

Reportage on Regime-Opposition Marshland Clashes

Baghdad Loses 600 Troops, 8 Tanks

NC1403160792 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The sons of our noble people are continuing their heroic confrontation with the barbaric onslaught waged by tyrant Saddam's forces of darkness against our people in the marshes in al-'Amarah Governorate.

The courageous mujahidin inflicted heavy losses in the ranks and equipment of the collapsing Saddamist remnants. The confirmed losses include 400 killed and eight tanks. The tyrant regime's military units are trying to reassemble to launch another attack on the areas of (Tulayn) and (al-Shattaniyah).

To cover up the defeat that they suffered and to boost their collapsing morale the remnants shelled our people in the marshes, using helicopters and heavy artillery. Hundreds of innocent people were injured by the bullets of the Ba'thist hatred.

It is recalled that the cities of our rebellious Iraq in the south, especially in al-'Amarah and al-Basrah Governorates, have caused the tyrant trouble in the past as a result of the bold operations launched by our heroic mujahidin which shook the collapsing regime.

Relying on God Almighty, units from our popular revolution launched a lightning attack on Saddam's units of the 10th Armored Brigade in the marshes of al-'Amarah. [Words indistinct] which arrived in this area to reinforce the cowardly Saddamist remnants.

Two hundred mercenaries were killed and seven tanks and other vehicles were destroyed in the attack [words indistinct]. A large quantity of weapons and equipment were also captured.

Al-Diwaniyah was the scene of another heroic epic by the courageous sons of the popular revolution when they carried out the punishment of divine justice on a group of mercenaries working in the intelligence and security organs of the regime, the enemy of the people. Our sons eliminated 15 criminals, including one officer, when they attacked the travel and nationality offices building in that city.

The mujahidin returned safely to their base after carrying out this bold operation, leaving behind the defeated Saddamist authorities in a state of confusion. The Muslim masses in al-Diwaniyah received the news of what happened to this criminal den and the mercenaries inside it with extreme joy.

Opposition Downs 10 Helicopters

NC1603152092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Iraqi opposition forces in the marshes captured a corps commander belonging to the defeated tyrant Saddam, killed (?150) other officers, and shot down 10 military helicopters in last week's fighting in the southern areas, a spokesman of the al-Da'wah Party's Political Bureau in Iraq revealed.

He said that the Iraqi opposition forces last week mounted a large attack against the tyrant's forces besieging the marsh area. He added that the attack resulted in the opposition forces [words indistinct] al-Qurnah and al-Madinah towns in al-Basrah's marshes and al-Salam and Nahr 'Udayl towns in al-'Amarah's marshes. The opposition forces remained in the towns for several days.

Paper States 'International Policy' To Succeed

JN1103083792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has expressed absolute confidence that Iraq's international policy will succeed and that allegations aimed at besmirching Iraq's image worldwide will be refuted.

In an article today the paper says that the secret behind the international success of this policy lies in its foundations and principles, which adopt credibility, clarity, respect for humanitarian laws and values, and which reject any dilution of national sovereignty.

The paper refers to the way that Iraq has dealt with the international resolutions since August 1990 up to the present. UN observers and diplomats, the paper adds, have been unanimous that Iraq's quiet logic, which rests on facts when rebutting allegations made concerning its positions toward Security Council resolutions, has exposed the disinformation approach being practiced against it to portray Iraq as not being committed to UN resolutions, whether on Iranian POW's or the allegation that Iraq refuses to hand over Kuwaitis which Kuwaiti authorities claim are still in Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: UN observers have also found that in reality Iraq has so far been committed to 90 percent of Security Council resolutions, while the implementation of the rest of these resolutions is related to highly complex technical matters. They base this view on documents submitted by UN inspection teams showing the extent of Iraq's commitment and its open cooperation to facilitate these teams' missions.

In this respect they have also noted Iraq's response to requests to destroy its weapons and its permission to UN experts to visit whatever sites they wish to inspect, including nonmilitary sites.

UN observers have gone even further when assessing Iraq's response by noting confessions made by inspection experts of being involved in many cases in which they visited industrial and civilian Iraqi sites based on false Western intelligence reports claiming that the sites are military in nature. They cited visits to purely educational establishments under pressure of such false information.

As for the position of Iraq and Iran toward the exchange of POW's, UN observers and diplomats have said that Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn's assertion that Iraq will cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is a clever move that has now put the ball in the Iranian court. Experts note that the credibility of Iranian officials with regard to the ICRC will be put to the test if Iraq decides on an early release of all Iranian POW's captured by Iraqi forces during the eight-year war.

AL-THAWRAH also asserts that UN observers have been satisfied with Iraq's distinguished humanitarian approach toward the Kuwaiti detainees, noting in this regard the release of 652 Kuwaitis and others, including senior officers and some members of the royal family.

They emphasized that Iraq adopted the correct approach toward Kuwaiti claims that there are still other detainees by asking the ICRC to investigate these claims and by displaying a readiness to cooperate with ICRC officials to facilitate their activities.

Casualties in Attack on Embassy in Buenos Aires

TA1803055392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said that in the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Zehava Zahavi, 40, the wife of the first secretary, was killed. Another 10 Israelis were wounded, most suffering slight injuries.

The Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires told us that five or six embassy employees, including two local secretaries, are still missing. It is not known whether they are still under the debris or in hospitals. Most of the embassy employees were in the building when the explosion occurred; therefore, most were hurt. Rescue work is still continuing and is now being carried out under searchlights. The rescue workers believe that between 10 and 15 people are still trapped under the building and voices are heard under the debris. Oxygen is being pumped into the debris. [passage omitted]

The Jewish community in Argentina has called for a mass demonstration tomorrow to protest the murderous attack. Community leaders met with President Carlos Menem, who promised to do everything possible to defend the members of the community and to take moves to prevent a recurrence of terrorist attacks.

The Israeli Embassy in Chile this morning received telephone threats. Daniyel Moqedi, Israel's ambassador to Chile, said that the callers said that what happened in Buenos Aires is nothing compared to what will happen in Santiago. Chile's police beefed up protection of the embassy building.

In a telephone call to President Herzog, President Menem called for experts to be sent to his country to assist in apprehending the perpetrators of the embassy attack and said that he had made a similar request to the administration in Washington. He wished to express his shock and solidarity with the people of Israel.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility

TA1803151192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] An announcement on behalf of the Islamic Jihad was released in Beirut a short time ago to the effect that its members perpetrated the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina to avenge the murder of Shaykh al-Musawi.

More on Islamic Jihad Claim

TA1803155792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1527 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Report by Tamar Lanir in the studio—live]

[Text] Foreign sources released a report in Beirut a short time ago stating that the Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires yesterday. Here is a quote from the report: We proudly announce that the operation is one of a series of ongoing blows against the Israeli enemy in an open war, a war that will not end until Israel is erased from the face of the earth.

So much for the announcement released by Islamic Jihad in Beirut, which we received from REUTER.

Shamir Reacts

TA1703205692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2034 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Here is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's first reaction to the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, reported by our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli.

[Begin Shamir recording] This is yet another attempt to attack us and to pursue the war of terror against us, although we all know that such attacks will not change the course of history. Israel will go on advancing toward progress and peace. [end recording]

Levi: 'We Will Do What We Must'

TA1803061492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Argentine President Carlos Menem supports Israeli Foreign Minister Levi's view that an Iranian-Syrian conspiracy is responsible for the latest attacks against Israel. Foreign Minister Levi spoke last night about an Iranian-Syrian axis of terror against Israel. Minister Levi convened a news conference last night in the Foreign Ministry situation room and said that the account with barbarian terrorists blinded by hatred will be closed:

[Begin Levi recording] For our part, we are doing what we must not only to maintain a link, but also to provide the necessary aid and coordination with the Argentine Government. President Menem, I have been told, convened a special cabinet meeting and called the attack a Nazi action. Terrorism also struck Foreign Ministry workers a week ago in Turkey, where Ehud Sadan was killed. Such actions are aimed against men, women, and children where our emissaries are based like soldiers on the frontlines.

We will do what we must. We are dealing with elements blinded with illogical hatred, filled with cruelty, with whom we have accounts to settle, and we will settle them. There can be no coexistence with such a phenomenon. Israel will know how to find the way or ways to punish severely those responsible for those barbaric actions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0600 GMT on 18 March carries a similar report with a recorded passage in which Levi says: "It is clearly inconceivable that we will stand for a phenomenon in which those who hold peace talks with us encourage those who act against us through terrorism."]

Addresses Knesset on Attack

TA1803114192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1047 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Statement by Foreign Minister David Levi to the Knesset in Jerusalem on the attack on the Buenos Aires Embassy on 17 March—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....vehicles and buildings around the embassy. So far, 10 fatalities and 130 casualties have been recorded. Among the fatalities are two Israeli women—Zehava Zehavi, a mother of three; and Leanora Karmon, a mother of five—both embassy employees. Two other Israelis, Counselor David Ben-Refa'el and security officer Eli Ben-Ze'ev, have not been found yet. Neither have four Argentine Jewish women who work as secretaries in the embassy been located yet. Among the missing still among the ruins are Argentine workers who were doing various work in the embassy when the explosion went off. Just before I took the podium I was told that the body of one of the four missing women was found. Seven Israeli casualties and a local female employee are in various hospitals; three of them sustained serious wounds. The names of the casualties are Dani Karman, Noga Gorni, Eva Biran, Erez Mikha'eli, Yo'el Mikha'eli, Yehoshu'a Bitan, and Li'ora Schechtman.

About an hour after the attack, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella called me and expressed the shock he and the Argentine people feel about this despicable action. The minister informed me that his government immediately started an intensive investigation to find the perpetrators of the murderous attack and would coordinate it with the Israeli authorities.

A short time later, Argentine President Carlos Menem called President Hayim Herzog and also expressed his shock and anger, and his readiness to include Israeli experts in the investigation of the attack in Buenos Aires. Israel therefore is sending experts from the security forces and the police there. President Menem will provide his private aircraft to bring the bodies of the fatalities back to Israel.

The speed with which the Argentine authorities came to the rescue and agreed to do anything necessary, including rescue efforts by professionals and volunteers—which saved many lives—should be praised. Local hospitals declared a state of emergency and accepted more than 100 casualties. As in many similar incidents, Mr. Speaker, it is in times when disaster strikes Israelis and Jews that national solidarity is displayed.

The Jewish community offered to do anything necessary and even put an alternative building at the disposal of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The embassy staff, headed by Ambassador Yitzhaq Shefi, has been working efficiently under difficult conditions to coordinate the rescue efforts and to do everything possible, including ongoing ties throughout the night with the Foreign Ministry situation room and the families of the embassy employees. They are worthy of praise for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, some 10 days ago we buried in Jerusalem Ehud Sadan, a Foreign Ministry employee in our Ankara embassy who was murdered in a terrorist act. He was the ninth such victim serving in our foreign service, and now more people who fly the Israeli flag around the world have joined the list of victims. Foreign Ministry emissaries who execute policy find themselves time and again unprotected on the battlefront. Yesterday morning, bloodthirsty terrorists struck at students and passersby in the streets of Yafo, and the blind thirst for murder did not differentiate between Jewish blood and Arab blood. Ilanit Ohana, 19, was murdered with a knife and 'Abd-al-Gani Khan, an Israeli Arab citizen, also lost his life. We have a bloody account to settle with the saber-rattlers and those who set off explosives both here among us and far off. Our war is with those who dispatch them.

Mr. Speaker, it is a struggle for life which is being forced on us. We will stand up to it with determination. There is no coexistence with terrorism. Israel will continue to take action to foil plans to harm it and its citizens, in the country and anywhere else in the world. We will hunt down the murderers. We followed yesterday's events with concern. We all feel the pain of the families. In the name of the Government of Israel, I express our condolences to the relatives of those who lost their lives, to people who fell in the service of the state, and I wish a speedy recovery to the casualties.

At this moment, a rescue team is leaving for Buenos Aires to use the expertise they have gained here. We asked the authorities not to stop the rescue work. There was a plan to use tractors to speed up the rescue work, but we called on the Argentines not to do that, and they acceded to our request. They continued rescue efforts manually throughout the night and up to this very minute, and they now are expecting the Israeli experts to arrive. What happened is a blow to us all. It is a despicable action, and those who perpetrated it knew full well what price it would cost and the lives that would be lost in this barbaric murder. Those who carried out the murders and those who sent them can expect painful punishment. The Government of Israel will decide how, when, and where it will retaliate for the blood of the fatalities.

Additional Levi Comments

TA1803091292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0810 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, after Levi's meeting with Bulgarian Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Levi] What happened in Buenos Aires is a bloody attack. We have to withstand it, fight it, and win; there is no other solution. Israel cannot cave in, it cannot show

restraint. There is no coexistence with terror. It strikes also at those who provide it with refuge, including the Arab states.

[Golan] You mean Syria?

[Levi] I mean terrorism of all types, and of course, the wave of Islamic Jihad and those who support it.

[Golan] Is there a chance of peace with Syria when it encourages terror as part of the Tehran-Damascus axis to which you refer?

[Levi] There are rules on which we insist. I referred in my discussion with the U.S. ambassador to the need for the United States and others to deal with the issue. Earlier, it appeared that things would not develop as they did. We warned that the presence of destructive terrorist elements on territory under Syrian control is a time bomb.

[Golan] Would you say that Israel now expects the United States to exert pressure on Syria to stop its actions?

[Levi] Israel has long said that the peace process cannot be accompanied by encouragement and assistance of terror.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, President Bush is now offering us loan guarantees for only $300 million. Should we take them?

[Levi] Israel will consider it. What has been taking place is an internal U.S. matter between the administration and Congress; Israel was not involved in those discussions. We, of course, have an interest in the matter because the aid in the form of loan guarantees is meant for immigrant absorption. A feeling must not develop in the region that our relations with the United States are being eroded or going through difficult times because it could, God forbid, be interpreted as though Israel is being weakened, that the United States is hostile to Israel, or that the alliance between the two countries has either ended or weakened. That could be very dangerous for the peace process and for another sphere in the region.

[Golan] Sir, one more question: You were called to the Foreign Ministry yesterday from internal consultations in your camp. Is there a growing danger that the Levi camp will leave the Likud? We hear that [Qiryat Shemona Mayor] Prosper 'Azran is already holding talks with Tzomet.

[Levi] I do not want to discuss any rumors or reports about any colleagues. The situation is not good; friends are making superhuman efforts to end the crisis so that the Likud comes out of it united for the big challenge, the elections. But that cannot be one-sided, and a joint effort by all is called for. My friends have made such an effort. I would like to believe that all colleagues are jointly responsible for what has to be done to heal the wounds and unite the ranks. That is my hope.

British Prime Minister's Message

TA1803110492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Report by Arye Golan]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir's bureau this morning received a letter from British Prime Minister John Major. Major writes: Dear Prime Minister, I was shocked to hear about the murderous attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires yesterday. I am sending my deep condolences to you, the families of the dead and wounded, and to all Israeli people. The hearts of British citizens are with you at this difficult hour, Major writes, adding: In view of this criminal act, I would like to reemphasize the British Government's total commitment to the war against terrorism. Major also stressed Britain's commitment to the right of Israel, of Israeli citizens, to peaceful life within secure borders.

Defense Minister Holds 'Good Meeting' With Baker

TA1703202492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1922 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Report by Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Stern] Defense Minister Moshe Arens arrived at the State Department a few hours ago to confer with Secretary of State James Baker. It was described as a private meeting, lasting 45 minutes. Baker did not allow photographs, and what you see on the screen is old footage.

Two issues have recently tarnished Israeli-U.S. relations and were featured at the meeting: the guarantees and a halt to settlement, and the recent wave of published reports about Israeli arms sales to Third World countries. Arens would not elaborate upon emerging from the meeting. He and Baker agreed not to make its contents public.

[Arens] I am just back from a meeting with the secretary of state. It was a private meeting, just the two of us. I think it was a good meeting.

[Unidentified correspondent] Was the question of the guarantees raised during the meeting?

[Arens] I do not want to go into details.

[Stern] Arens did not divulge the contents of the meeting, even to his close aides, but it is almost certain that he explained to Baker that there is no chance whatsoever of Israel's suspending settlement. [passage omitted]

Efforts To Clarify Arms Sales Said 'Failed'

TA1803061892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 mar 92

[Text] It now appears that Defense Minister Arens has failed to clear up the allegations that Israel supplied U.S. military technology to China and other states without U.S. approval. U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has confirmed that the differences still exist and therefore Washington is sending a special team to Israel to investigate in detail the whole affair.

Shamir Not To Change Policies 'One Iota'

TA1803061092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel will not change its policies. It will not give up peace negotiations despite the continuing Palestinian violence and will not change its positions even to enhance the chances of receiving loan guarantees from the United States. David Ze'ev filed this report:

The prime minister said Israel is also not willing to change its policies one iota, as he put it, when it comes to the American condition of stopping settlement activity in the territories in order to receive loan guarantees. In fact, Shamir said maintaining the very good relations between the United States and Israel is conditional itself on Israel continuing its current path, and eventually the other side, as the premier put it, will change its position.

Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel has ways of dealing with the scenario of not getting the guarantees:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] If indeed we don't get the loan guarantees from the United States, I think we will be able to obtain them from other sources. We have an economy that is going to be pressed harder, of course, without the loan guarantees, if indeed we don't receive them, but we are able to privatize assets that are now held by the government. We are able to appeal to the Jewish people. I think we are able also to turn to financial sources in the world and indicate a country that is going to have a prosperous future, a very talented manpower that is already here, that is coming in from the former USSR. We have our economic resources, we have the economic future. If needed, we will press ourselves even harder. [end recording]

Shamir on Loan Guarantees, Attack in Yafo

TA1703165892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said there is no need to take special, harsh steps in the wake of this morning's terrorist murders in Yafo. Shamir stressed, however, that every effort must be made to put an end to this phenomenon. The entire spectrum of Knesset factions condemned the murders today. Our correspondent, Dov Gilhar, reports.

[Gilhar] Knesset Members [MK's] from all across the political spectrum today condemned the murders in Yafo. Some left-wing MK's called for closing the Green Line, while the right wing demanded that the peace talks be halted. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, on the other hand, does not see any need to take any extraordinarily harsh steps.

[Begin Shamir recording] I do not think that this calls for any harsh steps. The more these atrocious and cruel acts happen, however, the less we become used to them. Nevertheless, we will spare no effort to stop these horrors. [end recording]

[Gilhar] Shamir said that Israel will not withdraw its request for the loan guarantees in order to make things easier for the U.S. Administration. The prime minister believes that despite the current state of affairs, Israel's relations with the United States will improve and get back on track.

[Begin Shamir recording] I regard this as a passing episode. Things will change; this will pass. One condition must be clear: We will not change our policy. If we do not change our policies and if we stick to our political path, then I have no doubt that the other side's position will change with time. [end recording]

[Gilhar] Shamir rejected the assessments that immigration to Israel will stop if it does not receive the guarantees. Shamir was speaking at a farewell ceremony for Likud Knesset faction chairwoman Sara Doron.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 17 March carries a similar report by correspondent Yo'el Nir, who notes that Shamir, reacting to the murder in Yafo today, said: "There is no doubt that we will have to find ways to put an end to this rampaging and inhuman violence, which has surpassed all limits." On the issue of loan guarantees, the report adds: "Mr. Shamir pointed out that there would be aliyah even without the guarantees, and he said he had no doubt there would be a large immigration wave in the future because that was the historical process of the Israeli people's return to its ancient homeland. This was a process no one could stop, Shamir said." The report notes that in response to a question on Israeli-U.S. relations, Shamir said that "although he would like the United States to change its policy he would not presume to ask for such a thing."]

Health Minister on Settlements, Guarantees

TA1703173792 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Do you think the United States is now more conspicuously trying to intervene in Israel's election campaign?

[Olmert] It is not a question of intentions; I cannot attest to U.S. intentions.

[Shilon] So, what is it doing?

[Olmert] An objective analysis of U.S. actions would seem to point to an attempt to influence the political process in our country.

[Shilon] What should our reaction be?

[Olmert] First, I suggest that we do not embrace the reaction of Abba Eban [who, interviewed earlier in the program, said the Israeli Government should make up its mind and choose between settlement on the one hand, and the absorption of aliyah, good relations with the United States, the promotion of peace, the enthusiastic support of world Jewry, and national consensus in Israel on the other]. I think his reaction is wrong and, if I may say so, detrimental.

I would like to explain why. This obsession with the settlements does not show the real picture. What we are faced with primarily is a U.S. design that, at the end of the peace process, would have Israel back at the 1967 borders. That is what the real argument is about. After all, nobody seriously thinks the Americans object to the settlements but would be prepared to accept our presence in those territories in the future. Obviously, this is the first step.

[Shilon] Differences of opinion on the issue are legitimate, but the United States is talking about specific Israeli activity that it wants to freeze only for the duration of the negotiations. Why does Israel persist in its obstinacy?

[Olmert] Because the issue must be discussed with our partners in the negotiations. The moment it is presented as an ultimatum by the United States—although it is an Arab demand—and we give in to that dictate, we will actually be undermining the possible basis for coexistence. From that moment on, the Arab countries will tell themselves: Why should we try so hard to reach understandings and arrangements with the State of Israel when we have such an effective tool—U.S. pressure—so feared by Mr. Abba Eban and others, to the point that they say Israel should accept that dictate?

[Shilon] Mr. Olmert, if that is the case, why should we not proudly tell the Americans: This is our policy and our way, and we give up on the guarantees. We do not want to impose our policy on you, so do not try to impose your policy on us.

[Olmert] Indeed, we are not trying to impose our policy on the United States. First, I would like to suggest that we all keep our cool and not lose our sense of proportion about the guarantees. We need them, and we could definitely use them. To say that aliyah will stop tomorrow morning, however, and that our choice is between aliyah and settlement is absolute nonsense. Some 400,000 Jews immigrated to Israel in the last few years without guarantees. Houses were built for them and jobs were found for hundreds of thousands—though not for all; there are problems. All that was done without the guarantees. The issue should not be presented as if the continuation of aliyah depends entirely on this question, although the guarantees could help.

The State of Israel has settled millions of immigrants in the past without guarantees; all the immigrants who wish to, will come here. If we have no other choice, we will cope with the situation by other means.

You ask me why we do not come out with a provocative declaration such as: You know what? You do not want to give us the guarantees? Well then, don't. I think there is an argument within the United States over the issue. Very senior elements in the Senate support various proposals that perhaps we would be willing to accept, but that are unacceptable to the administration. I do not think we should free the administration of its moral obligations. We should not get into the game the administration is trying to dictate, which actually is a political problem. We claim that the question of the guarantees is not at all related to the political issue. It is good, therefore, for this argument over a matter of principle to continue. [passage omitted]

Knesset Okays Direct Election of Prime Minister

TA1803115292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] The bill to directly elect a prime minister has passed in the Knesset, but as David Ze'ev reports, the law is no longer what its proponents had hoped for, and the fight between the two sides is far from over:

Fifty-five in favor, 32 opposed in the final reading of the bill to directly elect the prime minister, but as that final tally indicates, many Knesset members, especially opponents, were absent. The Likud had given its people a free hand on how to vote. If all this sounds strange, an explanation of changes made in the bill will clear things up. A key difference is that under the current bill, even though the prime minister would be elected directly, he would then have to bring his government before the full Knesset for a vote of confidence. The principle of this bill was supposed to be that a prime minister would not have to be the head of the largest party in the house, but now if he isn't, he would almost certainly lose the vote of confidence.

The newly passed law also stipulates that it will not apply to these upcoming elections in June, but only to the following Knesset elections. That means that the battle is far from over. Still ahead in the new Knesset after the June elections will be a fight between the proponents who will try to remove the requirement to bring the government for the full Knesset's approval and the opponents who will continue to fight against the bill

altogether. Even this morning, some members of the government coalition tried to have the bill brought back to the Law Committee one more time, but the effort failed. A free vote given to members of the coalition allowed a number of Likud MK's to vote in favor this morning. Among them: Minister David Magen, Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and the man who has been caught in the middle, Uri'el Linn, chairman of the Law Committee.

Eytan To Resume Post as Agriculture Minister

TA1803115692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen from the Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] A report I received a few minutes ago: The bill for the direct election of the prime minister has led to the return of Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet to the government. Refa'el Eytan is returning to the government as of Sunday [22 March]. He will resume his post as agriculture minister. Knesset Member Linn is next to me here and is expressing his joy over this.

A short meeting was held between Refa'el Eytan and the prime minister 30 minutes ago. The meeting lasted about 10 minutes, and the result was that Refa'el Eytan is returning to the government. Eytan explained: The electoral reform bill was passed. Tzomet withdrew from the government since the Likud did not keep its promise vis-a-vis Tzomet on allowing its members freedom of vote. Since the bill was passed today, however, and freedom of vote was granted, this made it possible for Tzomet to rejoin the government; namely, Refa'el Eytan resumes his post as agriculture minister as of Sunday.

Moda'i on Alternatives to U.S. Guarantees

TA1703125792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Excerpt] [Lidar] Good afternoon, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. We heard a few minutes ago that last night Minister Arens said we will not renew our request for U.S. guarantees. Do you share his view?

[Moda'i] Before I broach this issue, allow me to express my horror at the abhorrent, terrible killings perpetrated within Tel Aviv this morning, which again remind us that as we deal with the country's most basic problems, we must not forget that we are constantly facing the danger of active terrorism, which jeopardizes the Israelis' physical survival and which is aimed at shaking the State of Israel's existence.

Now to the issue of the U.S. guarantees: I was very glad to hear this morning that my colleague, the defense minister, has also joined the stand I voiced in public several months ago. At that time, I pointed to two things. One is the fact that the State of Israel's existence and immigration to Israel do not depend solely—not even significantly—on the readiness of our American friends to give us substantial loan guarantees. My other point at the time was a proposal: If the Americans give us the guarantees, we will drop our usual annual aid requests in order to attain finally the only desirable condition for the State of Israel—economic independence. For that reason, I was very glad to hear the defense minister's statement. At the same time, difficulties in this sphere could have been foreseen.

[Lidar] Do you believe that nothing can be done until at least after the elections?

[Moda'i] I do not know. It is their decision, not ours; we are the passive party. I would like to reiterate, however, that we have prepared for the eventuality of receiving only a part or, God forbid, none of the guarantees. To avoid remaining empty-handed, we have prepared alternative tools.

[Lidar] Mr. Finance Minister, how can we cope financially without the guarantees?

[Moda'i] Oh, it would require a long lecture to explain. If you know how to cope with the guarantees, you are halfway there. The tasks the State of Israel has assumed in the immigrant absorption sphere, along with the country's other needs, including the defrayal of past debts with which we built the country from scratch in 43 years.... [changes thought] The defense burden has not lessened. On the contrary, it has increased, and I understand this is the issue that sent the defense minister to Washington. The burden is very heavy, but as is known, so far we have managed to cope, albeit with difficulties, with unemployment. We have managed, and I believe we are on the right track: We will be able to absorb the immigrants both economically and socially, and when we emerge from this phase, the State of Israel, its society, economy, and possibly its security, will be much stronger than in the period that preceded the wave of immigration.

[Lidar] Has the decline in the number of immigrants facilitated Israel's task?

[Moda'i] Retrospectively it has, but we definitely hope that the decline is only temporary and that immigration will assume its former proportions. After all, the purpose of the Jewish state is to take in its sons from all over the world and not just to maintain our lifestyle here.

[Lidar] Will we, the ordinary citizens, personally feel the consequences of the absence of the U.S. guarantees?

[Moda'i] No. It should be understood that the issue has nothing to do with Israelis' pockets, because if anything can be found there, it is only shekels. What we need for the absorption of immigrants is mainly foreign currency, foreign equipment, and new investment sources. Foreign

currency can be secured only from foreign and not local loans, and certainly not through local taxes.

[Lidar] Will it be easy or difficult to obtain these funds abroad?

[Moda'i] It will undoubtedly be more difficult without the guarantees we requested from the United States, but I can say with high probability that even if the worst happens—namely, if the United States of America does not grant us any guarantees—even then will we be able to carry out the plans and reach the targets we set for ourselves within the framework of the time schedules on which we decided. I would like to stress again: We are talking about mere guarantees, not loans and certainly not grants. The guarantees are only the first stage, after which we would need to apply to various financial bodies. [passage omitted]

Water Commissioner Against Raising Quotas

TA1403113892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Water Commissioner Dan Zazlavsky said that Israel must continue reducing water quotas despite this winter's generous rainfall. He said that increasing the quotas would be sheer madness.

In a lecture in Haifa, the water commissioner said that Israel has no alternative but to move to water desalination. He asserted that desalination plants must begin working within three to four years. He reported that there are plans to build a joint desalination plant for the areas of Gaza and Beersheba.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that Professor Zazlavsky sharply criticized the officials who had been in charge of the water system over the past decade. He said that no investments had been made in infrastructure throughout the course of the entire period so that today there is neither enough equipment to inject water into the ground water table nor updated geological tables to enable effective exploitation of water resources.

Shamir Meets Visiting Bulgarian Prime Minister

TA1703140792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met Bulgarian Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov today in Jerusalem. The two men discussed increasing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, industry, and agriculture. During the meeting, Mr. Shamir reviewed the peace process and developments in the Middle East. Dimitrov spoke of the economic problems in Bulgaria, and the difficulties it has encountered in moving to democracy. This was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Levi, Dimitrov Confer

TA1803122892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Filip Dimitrov, the Bulgarian prime minister who is visiting Israel during such critical days, has expressed deep shock over the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. He said his government opposes any kind of terror or violence and vehemently denounces the recent terrorist activity.

During a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi this morning, Dimitrov conveyed the condolences of the Bulgarian Government to the families of the casualties and to the Israeli Government. Dimitrov added that Bulgaria believes that the only way to advance toward peace is through negotiations.

Foreign Minister David Levi has updated the Bulgarian prime minister on the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires. He described the attackers as fanatics whose blind hatred knows no limits. Yesterday, Levi said, fanatic terrorists attacked schoolchildren in Yafo and murdered an Israeli Arab citizen who rose to defend them as well as a young Jewish woman. In Buenos Aires, these fanatic terrorists attacked our embassy, indiscriminately injuring children, women, and men who were near the embassy building at the time.

Editorial Hails Bush Position on Loan Guarantees

JN1803102292 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Mar 92 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Positive U.S. Stance"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's stance toward the proposed loan guarantees to Israel deserves commendation. This is a politically courageous stance by a man on the threshold of an election campaign that has its own complex domestic calculations, not to mention the considerations that are known to all who realize the importance of the Jewish vote in presidential elections.

President Bush's rejection of a proposal to ease linkage between the $10 billion loan and the freezing of Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories prompts us to give greater credibility to U.S. Middle East policy. This rejection shows the U.S. Administration's determination to continue this policy, which calls both practically and tangibly for halting the internationally condemned settlement policy.

We realized right from the beginning that any compromises regarding this $10 billion loan would be interpreted in Israel as political and material encouragement to confiscate the occupied Arab territories, and plant them with Israeli settlements, at a time when negotiations are underway to determine the final status of these territories and the political options of their legitimate inhabitants. We would also have viewed any softening in the declared U.S. position on the loans issue since last September as indisputable practical evidence that the United States is not serious in its current diplomatic efforts to accomplish a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. A softening of the declared U.S. position would also have shattered all regional hopes that might be pinned on U.S. sincerity and determination in implementing the principles of international legitimacy, which it constantly and tirelessly repeats.

This positive U.S. position, which will receive due appreciation and commendation from the Arabs and the entire international community, will give momentum to the stumbling peace process despite the expected nervous reaction by Shamir's government. This is especially true since we are all aware of the limited choices available to Israel to continue the settlement policy without the indispensable U.S. funds, which cannot even be provided by the Jewish communities inside and outside the United States.

Hence, we have the courage required to commend this U.S. position, which is firm enough to force Israel to stop its settlement policy. We also have greater confidence in the future of the U.S.-backed peace process, especially since such positions contain implicit messages that would undoubtedly weaken the rightist and rejectionist Israeli forces which began to expose Israel's most precious external relations to challenges whose grave consequences cannot be borne by the Israeli society.

DPRK Vice President Discusses Cooperation

JN1603110392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Engineer 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport, and Mahmud al-Sharif, information minister and acting foreign minister, received DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok in Amman this evening.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Al-Suhaymat and al-Sharif reaffirmed Jordan's political stand on the Middle East conflict, and the Jordanian Government's eagerness to achieve a just, peaceful solution to this crisis based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The DPRK vice president stressed his country's eagerness to enhance cooperation with Jordan and to support the UN resolutions, for the attainment of a just, peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis.

Kuwait Said Depriving Returnees of 'Rights'

JN1703120192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Mar 92 pp 1, 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Government has deprived 1,000 Jordanian and Palestinian employees, who had worked with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense but returned to the Kingdom, of their financial rights, estimated at 80 million Jordanian dinars. A joint memorandum issued by the Jordanian Lawyers Association and the General Union of Palestinian Jurists, a copy of which AL-RA'Y has obtained, says that this decision was adopted by the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry last February. This decision deprives Jordanian and Palestinian military men of all rank in the Kuwaiti Army; of all their financial rights, including pension, retirement, and late payment; and other rights, because they are of Jordanian and Palestinian nationalities.

The memorandum was sent to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. The PLO, human rights organizations, Amnesty International, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Organizations, the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] commissioner, lawyers and journalists' associations, the Union of Arab Jurists, and the World Democratic Jurists League described this decision as shameful, and one that violates Kuwaiti law as well as international law. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head: Washington Talks 'Not Easy'

NC1703202092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations, returned to Beirut from Washington via Paris this afternoon.

Ambassador Shammas assessed the results of the fourth round of talks, and said that uniting Arab ranks and enhancing Arab coordination are among the basic conditions for creating the necessary atmosphere for the peace process to succeed. Ambassador Shammas said:

[Begin Shammas recording] I presented a comprehensive assessment of the talks in Washington on the day the talks ended, and then at a comprehensive news conference I held later.

I have no doubt that listeners in Lebanon have followed the reports on the talks and the delegation. If I were to give you the same details, I am afraid I would be repeating myself, and would bore listeners and make them turn off their televisions and radios. Nevertheless, I will very briefly say that this round of talks was not easy. The important thing, however, is that the parties to the talks have defined their positions clearly and in detail. We were not surprised by any of the stands Israel took. We were not surprised when the Israeli side said that it does not regard the Israeli presence in south Lebanon as an occupation. We were prepared for that and we responded by saying that all international norms, laws, and principles view the situation in the south is an occupation in every sense of the word. As long as the occupation continues, it constitutes a permanent act of aggression. If Israel has decided to embark on the peace process seriously, faithfully, and sincerely, it should begin the process of withdrawal. We emphasized to them that we, for our part, are prepared to assume responsibility for security all along our internationally recognized borders, especially now that the Lebanese Army, which is the basic and most important factor in the state's structure and for defense of the homeland, has regained its unity, formed brigades, and is determined to liberate the homeland. The Army is the most effective and safest means to maintain security.

We politicians are only a diplomatic means to which recourse must be made in the current international conditions because it is the preferred means by all states, and especially by decisionmakers and those who are responsible for the new world order. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack in Israel

NC1803062092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] In a statement issued in Beirut, the organization of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine claimed responsibility for the Yafo operation, in which two Israelis were killed and 20 were wounded yesterday.

The statement said the movement conducted this operation as a gift to the soul of the late Hizballah secretary general, 'Abbas al-Musawi, who was killed in an Israeli raid in south Lebanon.

The Israeli police earlier had announced that the culprits, Israeli Arabs who are members of the Islamic Jihad-Palestine, had been arrested.

Retaliation Expected

NC1803071892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] In the wake of the heroic operation in Yafo, Zionist warplanes intensified their sorties over the city of Tyre and the adjacent Palestinian camps, breaking the sound barrier several times.

Security sources in the south have reported that two Zionist gunboats approached the coast off the al-Rashidiyah Palestinian camp yesterday.

Palestinian sources in the camps say they fear a new Zionist air raid against the Palestinian camps in the south in the wake of the Yafo operation.

Israelis in 'State of Extreme Readiness'

NC1703183592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Security reports from the occupied border strip said the Israeli occupation forces are in a state of extreme readiness inside the township of Tallusah for the fifth day running, after the operation carried out by the resistance against the agent militia and Israeli forces in the region.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the Hasbayya region reported that an armored Israeli force has been carrying out extensive patrol operations for the past 48 hours along the border in the eastern sector, especially on the al-Hasbani-Abu-Qamhah-Suq al-Khan axis and the Kawkaba-(Darghis)-Blat axis. They set up roadblocks and subjected cars and pedestrians to searches.

The occupation forces directed machine gun fire from their locations in Tallat Kawkaba in the eastern part of the township of Qilya. This morning they raked the outskirts of Kafr Rumman with heavy machine gun fire from their locations in the al-Dabshah hills and launched flares.

In addition, Israeli enemy warplanes flew at low altitudes over the city of Tyre and nearby camps this afternoon.

Interior Minister Predicts Release of Germans

AU1703114292 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 17 Mar 92 p 10

[By Detlev Ahlers: "Interior Minister: German Hostages Will Soon Be Free"]

[Excerpt] Nicosia—Lebanese Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib announced for the second time in a week that the two German hostages in Lebanon, Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig, will be released "soon." Al-Khatib heads a government committee that is trying to ensure the release of Western hostages. This committee is the first of its kind in Lebanon since the abduction of Struebig and Kemptner eight years ago.

Al-Khatib is said to have excellent contacts with the Syrian secret service. According to the interior minister, Struebig's and Kemptner's release was "imminent" last week, but it did not take place because of unspecified "new obstacles." [passage omitted]

Release Seen 'Within a Week'

NC1803061692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Citing well-informed sources, the newspaper AL-SAFIR reports today that the two German hostages will be released within a week. The newspaper says intensive and very secret contacts involving Lebanese, Arab, and international parties have resulted in agreement on reaching a happy end to this issue, and on closing the hostage file once and for all.

'Sources' on Lebanese, Syrian Efforts

NC1803104292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] REUTER cites ministerial and fundamentalist sources as saying that Lebanon and Syria are working jointly to release the two German hostages held in Lebanon as a sign of goodwill on the part of the pro-Iranian kidnappers.

A ministerial source has said that a Lebanese security delegation visited Tehran two weeks ago to seek help in the release of Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig. The source added that the delegation returned from Iran with a positive impression, and that the atmosphere is positive in terms of the prospects for release. He remarked, however, that this is not final.

A fundamentalist source has said that Syrian security officials have met with 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi, a Hizballah security official whose associates are believed to be holding the two Germans, and asked him to reconsider his demand that Bonn promise to release his two brothers at a later date.

Al-Murr Confers With German Envoy

NC1703133492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has received a message from the secretary general of the German Defense Ministry [title as heard], delivered by German Ambassador to Lebanon Peter Kiewitt. The message concerns logistical and medical aid to the Lebanese Army, including trucks which can be used in natural disasters. The German ambassador and Minister al-Murr discussed the issue of the two German hostages, the ambassador saying that the German and Lebanese Governments are in direct contact.

Minister al-Murr also received Turkish Ambassador Aydan Karahan, who said they discussed important issues, especially a Turkish plan to help Lebanon resolve its economic crisis.

Answering correspondents, al-Murr explained the reasons for the German and Turkish ambassadors' visits.

He said that the U.S. position welcoming parliamentary elections in Lebanon is a democratic one. Elections must take place and we must stop appointing deputies, the Chamber of Deputies having lost its status as a people's representative.

He said that irrespective of any justification for delaying the elections, it would be wrong not to return to the popular base. The elections must be held this year and the old system must be used until the elections law is amended. That is up to the cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies.

Irish Defense Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC1703050692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] John Wilson, Irish deputy prime minister and defense minister, arrived in Beirut today to inspect the Irish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. He will meet Defense Minister Michel al-Murr later this week.

Replying to a question at the airport, Wilson said that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon must remain in southern Lebanon as long as the United Nations deems it is wise for them to stay, and as long as these forces keep peace and pave the way for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Economic, Technical Agreement Signed With PRC

JN1603175092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA)—An economic and technical cooperation agreement between the Syrian Arab Republic and the PRC was signed at the State Planning Institution today. Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, attended the signing ceremony. The agreement was signed for the Syrian side by 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, assistant minister of state for planning affairs, and on the Chinese side by Chengli Wenzhou [name as received], assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Chinese ambassador in Damascus and competent technicians from the State Planning Institution.

According to the agreement, the PRC will provide an interest-free loan that will be used over five years in economic and technical cooperation projects that will be agreed upon.

Commentaries Praise President al-Asad's Speech

'Comprehensive Pan-Arab Speech'

JN1303181892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH analyzed President Hafiz al-Asad's comprehensive pan-Arab speech. Under the headline "These Are Our Constants," AL-THAWRAH says: Leader al-Asad's speech was comprehensive and left no small or big issues or points of concern to the masses without discussing them very frankly and clearly.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the effective and serious Arab solidarity which the president emphasized yesterday—and again warned against the dangers posed to the nation and the existence and future of the Arabs—has deep connotations and great significance at a time when this nation is expected to relinquish its rights, dignity, and central cause on the capitulation table.

The paper highlights what al-Asad said, to the effect that aggression and expansion is a constant Israeli policy. It points to his excellency's emphasis that Syria's firm and principled policy has been and is based on achieving Arab solidarity, continuing to redress and reinforce the pan-Arab course, and upgrading Arab capabilities to the level of confrontation that can repulse aggression and make the Israeli aggressor submit to the march of a just peace, and recognize Arab land and rights in accordance with international resolutions and legitimacy.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Our conditions for peace, as struggler al-Asad stressed, have not changed and will not change, neither today, nor tomorrow. The Arabs will not relinquish their land or rights, and we will not abandon one iota of our will and decisionmaking. These are our constants, and there is no force on earth that can impose capitulation on us.

In another commentary, "The Speech of the Pledge," AL-THAWRAH says: With an open mind; firm vision; a heart which is full of love, sincerity, and patriotism; and deep awareness of the events of the age, of topical issues, and of the nature of the current challenges, leader al-Asad addressed the people and the nation. It was the speech of the great pledge of allegiance. He exchanged pledges, loyalty, and love with the people. He spoke about the past, the present, and the future, to say the decisive word about the march, its performance and results, and the requirements of action during the new stage, with the objective of bolstering it in terms of awareness, will, and determination.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As our people have always expected of leader al-Asad, he gave the high values of life and a purpose for every action. The starting point in the leader's speech proceeded from the people and man. As leader al-Asad said, the people's confidence is a source of strength, and the masses's love strengthens the resolve to face challenges. Man is the starting point and objective of life.

The paper explains that the March revolution erupted for the sake of man. President al-Asad assumed his historic responsibilities by correcting the course of the revolution for the same objective. For the sake of achieving this particular objective, the course was developed on a special base derived from our heritage, real life, and our people's own experiment.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Leader al-Asad's speech before the People's Assembly was truly the speech of the pledge. A country and people led by a historic leader, Hafiz al-Asad, will inevitably achieve all their objectives. Congratulations to the people and the leader on the new term, and all its gains and sacrifices for the sake of the people and man in Syria and all parts of our greater Arab homeland.

The newspaper TISHRIN also analyzes President Hafiz al-Asad's important, historic speech. Under the headline "Peace Is the Opposite of Occupation," the paper says: President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed Syria's desire for peace, and that it is the one that opened the road to peace when it approved Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace. He said that Israel does not want peace.

TISHRIN adds: President Hafiz al-Asad confidently defined our position on the peace process when he said: Our demands have not changed and will not change. This not only means concern for achieving peace, but also the inevitability of achieving peace based of international legitimacy and not relinquishing our pan-Arab rights and the occupied territories.

'Neither Appeases Nor Bargains'

JN1403081992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 14 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN stresses that leader al-Asad was, as usual, frank. He neither appeases nor bargains. He exposes all the campaigns of deception and falsehood. He declares in a clear and sincere voice that Syria strongly supports a just peace, one which eliminates deceit and injustice, which ends occupation, and which implements the resolutions of international legitimacy.

TISHRIN adds: Because the international community has not yet adopted tangible measures to help truth make its own way, and to end Zionist occupation and injustice in the Middle East, leader al-Asad urged more solidarity, cohesion, and sacrifice from Syria's masses. He also called on the Arabs to wake up from illusions, to face the facts, and not to fall into the enemy's trap.

Arab Unity Stressed

JN1603155992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When, during his historic speech to the People's Assembly, leader al-Asad affirmed the need to achieve Arab solidarity, he was reiterating Syria's slogan since the beginning of the Corrective Movement. There will be no life or future for the Arabs with fragmentation, disputes, divisions, indifference, and making secondary issues overshadow the major cause; that is, our decisive conflict with the Zionist enemy who has ambitions on our land and resources. A review of Syrian positions over the many years of the Corrective Movement clearly shows the efforts exerted by Syria to achieve Arab solidarity and close Arab ranks with a broad front and united position. Had our nation been united and the Arabs had the same position, Israel would not have been able to adopt belligerent stands in our region, occupy our land, and suppress our Palestinian people.

Solidarity was an urgent need when the Arabs had faithful friends who gave them support and assistance. What will the situation be now that the Soviet Union, together with the socialist camp, has collapsed, and there is talk about banning arms supplies to the Arab states facing Israel.

Arab solidarity is not only an urgent need now, but a top priority and a sacred national and pan-Arab duty. The Arabs who think they can depend on foreign forces without referring to their people and nation are mistaken. Syria has always been the first to work for the sake Arab glory and pride. Syria never shirked a responsibility; it shouldered all responsibilities and confronted—unilaterally—the Zionist enemy, who attempted to devour Lebanon and aborted divisionist schemes and sectarian wars. It also confronted the attempts to liquidate the Palestine question and responded to the call of the kinsfolk in the Gulf when their security was threatened. Syria also strongly defended genuine Arab principles, ideals, and traditions, hoping that a serious endeavor would be embarked on to achieve sound, fraternal, and pure inter-Arab relations to cope with the challenges facing our nation. As the October war united the hearts of all Arabs, the post-October war period witnessed the fragmentation of Arab solidarity as a result of foreign intervention, whims, and egoism.

Today, as our nation is waging the battle of peace, it is in urgent need of real and effective solidarity. The Zionist enemy does not hide his intention to Judaize our occupied territories, plant them with settlements and settlers, and displace our Palestinian people from their land. Each day, the enemy leaders threaten aggression. The enemy refuses to respect the will for a just peace. In fact, it challenges the international community, boasts about the scheme of Greater Israel, calls on the Western world—and the United States in particular—to finance this scheme, and instigates the influential major powers to ban arms supplies to the Arabs and intercept the ships carrying arms to Syria and other countries in the region.

The fact that the Arabs have sat at the negotiating table does not at all mean that peace will be achieved. The Arabs have spent four months in talks with Israel to no avail. The negotiations will continue to move in a vicious circle unless the international community intervenes firmly and strongly to straighten out matters and impose its resolutions using all appropriate means. The international community cannot be forced to undertake its responsibility in order to end occupation, coercion, and repression without effective Arab solidarity and a united Arab position due to our nation's potential and very important strategic position.

Leader al-Asad announced that the nation's causes are determined by the will of the nation, that we will not relinquish land or rights, and that there is no alternative but solidarity to restore land and rights. As it pledged, Syria will continue the struggle, calling on our brothers to rise to the responsibility. The Zionist danger is threatening everybody, now and in the future.

'Course of Struggle' Emphasized

JN1603105592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (SANA)—In today's editorial, "The Constant Principled Course," TISHRIN says that when he stressed in his historic speech to the People's Assembly that the Golan will surely return to Syria, and when he sent a message of love and loyalty to our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to the heroes of the national resistance in southern Lebanon, the leader, Hafiz, emphasized Syria's firm and principled course—the course of struggle, the course of confronting the usurper Israeli enemy.

The paper notes the persistent efforts which Syria has exerted over the past 20 years to accomplish effective Arab solidarity. It says that the nation possesses energies and capabilities as well as political and strategic leverage that enable it to regain all its rights and territories and to assume a prestigious position among the active nations that shape modern history.

TISHRIN adds that had there been true Arab solidarity, the international community would not have placated the rulers of Israel or ignored their violations of UN resolutions and charters, the Geneva Conventions, and their refusal to abide by a just peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that Israel is the one that practices aggression, rejects peace, plans for war in the Middle East, and stirs up tension. The Arabs have the right to reinforce their defense capabilities to confront the successive statements by Shamir's government that it will plant the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza with settlements—and that it will never return these territories—in order to settle tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants, in preparation for turning them into launch pads for new expansionist aggressions.

'Syria Opened the Path to Peace'

JN1703145592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Observers of Middle East developments are unanimous that Syria opened the path to peace when it agreed to the U.S. initiative. This was correctly emphasized by leader al-Asad in his historic speech before the People's Assembly. Observers are unanimous, that had it not been for Syria's response to the U.S. initiative, the Madrid Conference and the Washington talks would not have taken place. This is due to Syria's regional political and strategic weight, and because Syria's decisions represent the Arabs' will. The masses of the nation have entrusted Syria with their central issue and their future.

Stemming from a genuine desire to establish a just, comprehensive peace, Syria responded to the U.S. initiative, which is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. Syria headed for Madrid and then to Washington with an honest, responsible spirit, despite its belief that the Israeli enemy did not want peace and that it planned to keep the occupied Arab territories and prepare for new aggressive wars in the Middle East.

Among the reasons encouraging Syria participation in the bilateral talks were its eagerness to remove the vague vision of many Westerners, who believed that the Israeli rulers are looking forward to peace, and are waiting for the Arabs to sit with them at the negotiating table to explore their peace intentions and launch a real settlement, which would finally uproot tension in the region.

For four months the Arabs have held a series of talks with the Israelis, who constantly evaded the conditions for peace and affirmed their ambition in the occupied territories and their refusal to acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights. Meanwhile, the Shamir government is establishing settlements; changing the features of the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Gaza Strip; and publicly declaring that these territories are an indivisible part of the alleged land of Israel.

If the Syrian response to the will for peace has opened the path to a genuine settlement in the Middle East, the stand that leader al-Asad has reasserted in his historic speech shows neither bargaining nor acquiescence. Our territory is dear and precious, and is an indivisible part of our identity, history, and existence. Syria is not a country that will relinquish its identity, history, and existence. The Israeli rulers have heard nothing from Syria but the same language. Syria's language is the language of all Arabs in all their countries. It is the language of international principles and resolutions. Leader al-Asad has declared that we want a peace that restores territory and rights and spreads security. He also declared that there is no power on earth that can make Syria abandon its pan-Arab course or make it capitulate. We refer to those who nurture illusions to Syria's stands, struggle, and sacrifices since the dawn of the Corrective Movement. Syria has always stood by right and justice and urged the international community to establish a just peace. No peace deserves such a description unless it is just. Among the basic requirements of a just peace are the termination of the suffering of the Palestinian people, freeing them from the fist of repression and torture, and enabling them to determine their destiny. Also, among the basic requirements of a just peace are the removal of the Israeli occupation and imposing international legitimacy and implementing its resolutions.

If leader al-Asad placed the international community before its responsibility to remove Israel's aggression, he also placed the Arabs before their responsibilities, when he called for soul-searching and achieving effective solidarity, the solidarity of hearts and minds before the solidarity of potential and resources. The central issue is in danger and the Arab future faces major challenges. Israel is the same—a racist, expansionist entity working to devour territory and planning for further aggressive acts.

Every day, Syria urges the Arabs to coordinate efforts, unify policies, and confront the Zionist entity and the international community with a stand rejecting capitulation and bargaining. He who bargains over his rights or relinquishes his territory will slide to positions that will inevitably lead him to further bargaining and relinquishing and the loss of territory and rights.

Leader al-Asad's visit to Cairo and talks with President Mubarak fall within the continuous Syrian efforts to develop genuine and effective Arab solidarity. The peace process is at a turning point, and the enemy is continuing its settlement activity and antagonizing the world against the Arabs who are standing in the front ranl of confrontation. It is high time the Arabs adopted a unified stand

on Israel's fallacies and aggressive, expansionist schemes. It is a fact known the world over that the stand of Syria and Egypt constitutes the nucleus of every effective Arab move.

Further on Briton's Remarks on Gulf Security

JN1603150792 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Mar 92 p 8

["An Opinion" column by Fu'ad Mardud: "Gulf Security Primarily Arab Responsibility"]

[Text] The Gulf war was the most dangerous crisis the Arabs have faced in their modern history. This crisis placed the nation at a dangerous juncture. Thus, Arab solidarity and defending pan-Arab security have been joined by other urgent and extremely important issues. Concerned about the nation and its future, Syria and Egypt participated in the liberation of Kuwait to ward off the impending dangers, in light of a common destiny and history. From this pan-Arab premise, Syria exerted relentless efforts after the war to heel the wounds and rectify the rift in Arab ranks, given that the Arab nation is indivisible. Under President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has managed to make major strides in this regard.

At this time, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd made a strange statement: "Syria and Egypt have nothing to do with Gulf security because they are not part of the region." At the same time, he maintained that the West is concerned about this security.

We do not deny that Iran has a vital connection with Gulf security, given that it is a Gulf littoral state and is a basic part of it, and that events there affect, negatively or positively, its vital and regional security. But how can we acknowledge that a state which is situated over 5,000 km from the region, such as the United Kingdom, should be concerned with security there? And how can we acknowledge that Syria and Egypt are not concerned, although they and the Gulf states constitute a geographic unit, bound by inseparable national and historic ties?

The Syrian effort before and during the Gulf war stemmed from eagerness about the Arab nation, which is indivisible. Syria has thrown all its weight to rectify pan-Arab action and to make Arab decisionmaking purely Arab.

The brothers in the Gulf have expressed great appreciation for Syria's role, and they initiated the creation of the Damascus Declaration.

Gulf security, first and foremost, remains an Arab responsibility, and nobody is concerned about this security more than Syria. Syria will respond to the appeal of any brother who requests support, away from material and oil interests that govern the West's behavior and acts.

Afghanistan

'Hundreds' of Reinforcements Sent to Mazar-e-Sharif

BK1703151592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Kabul, March 17 (AFP)—The Kabul Government has flown hundreds of fresh troops to the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif where mojahedin rebels have shelled the airport and the city with rockets, sources close to the government military said Tuesday.

However, the sources said although government bombers had carried out raids on rebels in positions "some distance" from the city the situation, there did not appear critical at this stage.

They identified the fresh troops as Pashtoon militiamen from the southern province of Helmand, and said that the numbers sent there were "less than 1,000."

A spokesman for the Jamiat-e Eslami rebel group aid in Peshawar, Pakistan, earlier Tuesday said that mojahedin under the command of Commander Ahmad Shah Masood had taken three districts around Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province.

The government confirmed Monday that Kabul garrison commander General Nabi Azimi had been rushed to Mazar-e-Sharif, but the sources said his main task had been to work on resolving a bitter row between an ethnic Uzbek commander, Abdul Rashid Dostam, and the military commander of the city, a Pasthtoon general.

Dostam, whose militia have been in the forefront of most of the heavy fighting in Afghanistan since the Soviet troop withdrawal, had however signalled in the past few days that he hade no quarrel with the government in Kabul, the sources and other diplomatic sources here said.

"That main problem seems to be resolving itself," the sources said, referring to the efforts of Azimi, a non-Pashtoon said to be more popular in the predominantly Tajik and Uzbek populated north than the current commander, Pashtoon general Juma Isak.

The sources also said that Pashtoon militia from Helmand and Kandahar provinces had replaced Dostam's men who had been positioned around the city of Gardeyz in Paktiya province to the south of Kabul, which came under heavy mojahedin attacks last year.

Government spokesmen here have made no comment on the military activity around Mazar-e-Sharif, but have denied reports from Jamiat spokesmen that Khulm district in northern Sampan province, which borders the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, fell to the mojahedin last week.

Rebel Spokesman Claims City Captured

LD1703214392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Recent developments in northern Afghanistan have prompted a number of Kabul regime officers, including a number of generals, to join the Afghan mojahedin, 'Abdol Haq Shafaq, Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [IUPA] spokesman, told our correspondent today. He added: This important development has lowered the morale of the Kabul regime and army and has shown that the Kabul regime has realized its own situation. They are trying to stand with the people by joining the mojahedin. He named generals (Rashid Dustak), (Mo'meni), and (Seyyed Mansur Naderi) as outstanding personnel of the Afghan Army who have recently joined the Muslim and popular forces. On mojahedin military operations in northern Afghanistan, he said: The mojahedin have staged coordinated offensives on a number of the Afghan regime's important administrative, economic, and military centers. IUPA combatants staged large scale and successful offensives on 16 and 17 March to capture the town of Mazar-e Sharif, which is the biggest and most important town in northern Afghanistan. IUPA combatants are currently operating inside the town and have surrounded the 18th division of the Afghan regime, which is responsible for security in northern parts of the country.

Rebels Hold Positions Around City

BK1803120892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 18 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas claimed Wednesday to have conquered five more districts and two military positions around the key northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, and to have knocked out its airport.

Rocket fire seriously damaged the airfield and "it is no longer useable," said Mohammed Ayoub, the chief of the military committee of the Jamiat-e Eslami, an important rebel faction.

In the neighbouring province of Samangan, nine government security posts had fallen Tuesday to mujahedeen fighters advancing toward the town of Aybak, Ayoub said, adding that it was possible that other factions would join the Jamiat "to make Mazar-e Sharif fall."

The effective "neutrality" of nominally pro-government militias, made up of ethnic minorities locked in a dispute with Afghan President Najibollah's Pashtoons, had helped the rebel drive, Ayoub noted.

Najibollah Lafraie, a Jamiat political leader, agreed with Ayoub's assessment that the militias have basically become bystanders in the combat.

"The militiamen who are rebelling (in the north) are not fighting with the regime or with the mojahedin," he said.

Their non-involvement in the combat has had "a positive impact" on rebel operations, with the militias surrendering with a fight as the mojahedin took over Khulm district in Samangan province Friday, Lafraie added.

Asked if he saw the recent fighting in northern Afghanistan as a threat to U.N. peace efforts now underway, Lafraie said that "as long as we are not certain that a peace settlement can be brought into effect, the military pressure will continue."

However, the Jamiat, unlike other rebel factions, has not rejected a U.N. peace plan that calls for the convocation of an intra-Afghan assembly next month in Europe to put in place a transitional process in Kabul ahead of general elections.

U.N. special representative Benon Sevan decided Tuesday to prolong by 24 hours his visit to Kabul, where a rebel rocket attack claimed eight lives. According to sources close to the Kabul government, Najibollah has sent troop reinforcements to Mazar-e Sharif, but the government claims to be in control of the situation.

Missile Attack on Kabul Kills Nine

LD1703175192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Extremists, in this sacred month of Ramadan, which is a month of prayers to God, and of blessing, contrary to all tenets and norms of the sacred religion of Islam, today fired three surface missiles at residential areas in Kabul city. Eight of our compatriots, including two women teachers and an 80-year-old man, were martyred; one Hindu compatriot was also killed.

The BIA military section reports that the missiles, fired from the northeast of the city, injured six people and inflicted heavy material loss. The missiles were of the Sakr-type. [passage omitted]

30 Die in Nimruz Province Clashes

LD1703200992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Groups attached to the Harak formation yesterday used heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles to attack the centers and positions of the groups attached to the Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin and Etahad formation in some parts of Khashrud district in Nimruz Province.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that as a result of these attacks 30 people from Hezb-e Eslami's Golboddin and Etahad formation were killed and 16 others were badly injured.

Groups attached to the Harak formation attacked the homes of the men from the rival group and burned dozens homes along with their contents. The clashes among the rival groups continue fiercely.

Internal Affairs Ministry on Passport Issuance

LD1703040592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Announcement by the Internal Affairs Ministry Passport Department:

As instructed by authorized authorities, it has been decided that in light of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation and in respect of the basic rights of citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan, issuance of passports and visa for all compatriots and all respected foreign citizens beginning 20 March, in consideration of all required phases, should be organized as follows:

1. Issuing passports for tourism and sponsorship in (?five days).

2. For trade in four days.

3. For medical and health reasons in two days. In special circumstances within the day of application.

4. Passports for religious rites and haj in two days.

5. Issuing exit visas to holders of trade, tourism, and sponsorship passports in two days.

6. Issuing exit visas on application day for those compatriots who, utilizing the facilities under presidential decree no. 72 of 1990-1991, return to the country to visit their relatives.

7. Issuing (?residential) visas to foreign citizens in Afghanistan on the day of application.

In line with the aforementioned, the Passport Department requests esteemed customers and organs to cooperate with passport departments in the capital and provinces in the implementation of these phases:

A. State staff must have letters from the relevant departments or persons from which they received authorization.

B. Esteemed private investors must, in addition to letters from relevant ministries, have valid (?work) permits and valid (?guarantor) cards.

C. All esteemed customers must have their identity cards, military service papers, retirement papers, and valid exemption certificates.

D. Those who have exemption cards because of a job or education and those who, in consideration of the present situation, have one- year exemption certificates or have reached 17 years of age, should (?go) to passport departments in the capital and provinces for obtaining passport under Paragraph 6 Article 2 of the passport law and under Paragraph 2 of Article 58.

E. In line with Article (?58) [word indistinct], state departments are dutybound to send the complete identity of persons in accordance with their identity cards, which are [words indistinct] under paragraphs enshrined

in Article 52, to passport departments in the capital and provinces. Otherwise, passport issuing departments will bear responsibility in accordance with the law.

F. Those who want to get passports are requested to be present at the time of receiving their passports. Their passports cannot be handed to others.

G. Passport departments in the capital and provinces must obtain and complete the number of passports they need as soon as possible through relevant audit departments.

H. Those foreign citizens who come to Afghanistan holding ordinary passports please go to the passport department ten days prior to their visa's expiration date to receive a reissued visa.

J. Esteemed compatriots, the state organs and foreign citizens can ring phones no. Kabul 32648 or Kabul 22501 for further information.

India

Minister on Pentagon Paper, Joint U.S. Exercise

BK1603161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Government today categorically stated in parliament that there is no change in India's position with regard to the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Making a suo moto statement in both the houses, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, reaffirmed New Delhi's position to officials in Washington that India will not sign the NPT, since it considers the treaty to be discriminatory. [passage omitted]

Referring to the so-called Pentagon paper, Mr. Faleiro said that the foreign secretary was informed by officials of both the State Department and the National Security Council that it does not reflect the U.S. position on various issues and that it is subject to further review. India was categorically told that the draft paper was prepared by middle-level officials and does not reflect the perception of the policymaking levels.

On the reported Pentagon advocacy for a substantial American military relationship with Pakistan, the minister said that foreign secretary has strongly conveyed India's view that this would have consequences in terms of Indian assessment and policy orientation.

Referring to the proposal on the India-U.S. joint naval exercises, the minister said these training exercises would be professionally useful for our Navy. He, however, said that no agreement has been signed in this regard. He also reiterated India's commitment to maintain the Indian Ocean an area without conflicts.

Paper Comments on Recent Pentagon Document

BK1703060492 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Mar 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Ominous Portents"]

[Text] How should the US shoulder its new responsibility as the sole superpower? This question has triggered a lively debate on both sides of the Atlantic. It will be quite some time before anything in the nature of a consensus emerges, if at all. The situation created by the disappearance of the Soviet Union is extremely fluid. What will eventually replace Soviet power across the vast Eurasian land-mass is still far from clear. Central and south-eastern Europe, too, is in a state of flux. The disintegration of the Yugoslav federation has further added to this uncertainty. All this, however, has not deterred the Pentagon from coming out with its position paper on the complex subject. The Pentagon's propensity to dictate American foreign policy was pronounced throughout the cold war era. It is in character that it has again tried to upstage the State Department and the White House. This exercise in itself need not be a cause for misgivings since it has become an integral part of the American system. But the same thing cannot be said of the views propounded in the document. They are like those of a supercop armed to the teeth and intoxicated with the sense of unchallengeable power. They in fact breathe the belligerence which distinguished the cold warriors. Going by the extracts of the document published by THE NEW YORK TIMES, no one will suspect its authors of excessive regard for an enlightened approach to the challenge of building a new world order based on genuine cooperation.

The Pentagon is clearly obsessed with the self-assumed responsibility of preserving American primacy. The European allies of the US in the cold war and Japan will not fail to notice the patronising tone of the document when it speaks of the need to pay due attention to their interests. That is bad enough but the Pentagon has gone on to assert that such regard is necessary "to discourage them from challenging our leadership or seeking to overturn the established political and economic order". Mr Henry Kissinger observed recently that the dissolution of the communist world whose threat united the nations bordering the Atlantic had now challenged them "to articulate new purposes worthy of their victory in the cold war". The latest Pentagon paper will certainly not be a worthy aid to the achievement of this aim. The Asian countries have even more reason than the Europeans to take a dim view of the Pentagon document.

There can be no quarrel with the objective of promoting nuclear non-proliferation in the region. But how is it going to be achieved? And how precisely will the Pentagon bosses define India's possible "hegemonistic aspirations" and how will they seek to discourage them? If the Pentagon is to have its way in such matters, the US may start behaving in effect like a highway robber in the name of building a new world order. An aspect of the

document in question which New Delhi is apt to take serious note of is the "constructive US-Pakistan military relationship" it envisages. Apparently, Pakistan's long-time patrons in the Pentagon have not forgotten their trusted protege.

President of Kyrgyzstan Arrives on Visit

BK1703080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Askar Akayev, arrived in New Delhi this morning to a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Speaking to newsmen, the Kyrgyzstan president hoped that his visit would strengthen bilateral relations in both political and economic spheres. Mr. Askar Akayev will hold talks with Indian leaders and visit Bangalore and Agra during his three-day stay. A protocol establishing diplomatic relations between India and Kyrgyzstan will be signed during the visit.

Banquet Remarks Reported

BK1803094892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] India and Kyrgyzstan are to sign six wide-ranging agreements in the fields of economic cooperation, trade, and science and technology today. The Kyrgyzstan president, Mr. Askar Akayev, now in New Delhi, had meetings with the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the vice president, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao.

The president hosted a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary yesterday evening. Mr. Venkataraman, while welcoming Mr. Akayev at the banquet, expressed happiness over Kyrgyzstan's entry into the United Nations. He said that New Delhi is looking forward to close cooperation between their countries in the international arena.

The Kyrgyzstan president in his speech on the occasion said that his country does not want to be a member of any kind of military unions or blocs. He also declared that his government has categorically rejected all types of extremism.

Akayev on Economic Relations

BK1803121892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The visiting president of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Askar Akayev, has shown keen interest in welcoming Indian entrepreneurs to his country. This was disclosed by a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] spokesman after Mr. Akayev met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. The spokesman said Mr. Akayev was interested in Indian entrepreneurs investing in Kyrgyzstan and transferring technology to his country.

Mr. Akayev arrived in New Delhi this morning. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, received Mr. Akayev and his wife.

During his talks with Mr. Venkataraman, the visiting president spoke of the situation in Kyrgyzstan. He said he is taking steps to set up a democratic government and to modernize the economy. The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, later called on Mr. Akayev at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. They discussed bilateral and international issues. Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called on Mr. Akayev at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr. Akayev told the prime minister that his country categorically rejects extremism in any sphere of policy or ideology. In the talks that lasted half an hour, the two leaders agreed that India and Kyrgyzstan are both multiethnic and secular and share common values. Talking about recent economic reforms in India, Mr. Akayev said India is an example for Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Akayev later called on Mrs. Sonia Gandhi at her residence in New Delhi. During Mr. Akayev's visit, India and Kyrgyzstan will sign a protocol establishing direct diplomatic relations.

Accords on Relations, Cooperation

BK1803095092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] India and Kyrgyzstan today signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations. The two countries have also signed five wide-ranging agreements for cooperation in trade, science and technology, and cultural fields. The agreements were initialed in New Delhi on the second day of the Kyrgyzstan president, Mr. Askar Akayev's visit to the country. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said the agreements will provide a solid foundation for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. During his talks with the visiting dignitary he also offered India's expertise in diverse fields, particularly agriculture, textile, mining and banking.

Addressing a news conference, President Akayev expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his visit. He ruled out the possibility of an Islamic fundamentalist axis emerging in Central Asia. He made it clear that Kyrgyzstan is interested in building up a genuine secular and socialist state and that his country is against any form of extremism or fundamentalism.

Agreement To Expand Economic Ties With Turkey

BK1703160892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] India and Turkey are to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation and prepare perspective plans for the purpose. The two countries will also cooperate in setting up joint ventures in the Central Asian republics.

This was decided following the talks the visiting high-level Turkish delegation had with the prime minister and the minister of state for external affairs in New Delhi today. Mr. Narasimha Rao conveyed his condolences to the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and offered relief material worth around 70 lakh rupees. Expressing gratitude for the offer, the Turkish foreign secretary said his country regards the gesture as a manifestation of solidarity of India.

Remittances by Indians in Gulf Increase

BK1603041092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Remittances by Indians from the Gulf region have gone up by 40 percent since the presentation of the union budget two weeks ago. Banking sources have said in Dubayy that remittances from Dubayy, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to India have increased considerably. This is because the NRI's [Nonresident Indians] are now getting better value of their money in terms of the rupee. AIR's [All India Radio's] Dubayy correspondent reports that illegal trade of hawala [money transfer] is at a standstill even after two weeks. After having the facility of partial convertibility of the rupee, people are now preferring to remit their earnings through official channels only.

New Indigenously Built Missile Boat Commissioned

BK1703064492 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The second indigenously built missile boat, INS Vipul, was commissioned in Bombay today. We have a report from our Bombay correspondent:

[Begin recording] Described as a tiger [words indistinct] waiting to go, INS Vipul is by far the fastest missile boat. She formally joined the fleet of the Indian Navy this morning. The second indigenously built missile boat of the V Class, INS Vipul has been built by the Mazagaon Dock Limited, Bombay.

Built at a cost of Rupees 93 crore, the warship is based on the Russian design. She has a 90 percent input from Russia. Small in size, she is comparable with much larger warships. She is extremely maneuverable and has a menacing strike capacity. With advanced gunnery system, surface-to-surface missile, a fully automatic radar control and advanced electronic reception, she has tremendous punch. Formally commissioning Vipul, the minister of state for defense, Mr. S. Krishnakumar, expressed the satisfaction that INS Vipul has been completed on schedule. He said that defense production undertakings should adopt the best technology and make optimal use of resources. [end recording]

Council Being Formed on Kashmir Elections

BK1803103292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] The government is keen to restore the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest, and to this end an advisory council is being set up in the state to suggest ways. This was disclosed in the Rajya Sabha by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today. He said the government is assessing the law and order situation. Representatives of political parties as well as prominent citizens have been associated to redress public grievances about development matters.

In reply to a question, Mr. Chavan said assembly elections will be held first and that of the local bodies thereafter. The home minister admitted that the law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley continues to be difficult because of militant activities abetted by Pakistan. However, there is no proposal to send a delegation of religious leaders or of political parties to the valley in the present situation. The pressure on the militants is continuing relentlessly and the vigil on the border has been strengthened to prevent infiltrators from across the border.

Mr. Chavan said diplomatic initiative has been taken to counter Pakistan's efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue and there no proposal to make Jammu division a separate state. The home minister said steps have been taken to rehabilitate the refugees from the Kashmir Valley and the state government has taken steps to stop alleged diversion of funds for development by some contractors.

Lok Sabha Passes Copyright Amendment Bill

BK1703161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed the Copyright Amendment Bill, increasing the copyright period by 10 years. The house adopted the amendment after the human resources minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, assured the members that the government has completed the review of the Copyrights Act and would introduce a comprehensive bill soon.

Iran

DPRK Envoy: Second Vessel Heading for Region

LD1803051292 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA—The hue and cry made about North Korean ships recently was just a political and propaganda weapon used by President George Bush to regain its lost prestige and ensure his re-election, the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was quoted as saying.

Hwang Sun-muk in an interview with the Tehran based afternoon daily RESALAT published today, also accused the U.S. of seeking to make the situation in the Korean peninsula tense in a bid to pave the way for another war, by circulating false news about the North Korean ships.

The U.S. said last week that its warships were tracking two North Korean freighters suspected of carrying Scud missiles to Iran and Syria.

Stressing that interception and search of cargo ships in international waters is in violation of international law, Hwang noted that because the North Korean ship was just a freighter the Americans failed to find an excuse to take action against it.

The DPRK ambassador was also quoted as saying that another North Korean ship, a commercial vessel, was heading towards the region.

He refuted claims that his country produced missiles with a range of 1,000 kms or that it owned or was capable of producing nuclear weapons.

"The U.S., which possesses nuclear arms, is seeking an excuse to stir up tension in the world and on the Korean peninsula in particular," Hwang was quoted as saying.

"It is an outright act of impudence for one who possesses nuclear weapons, to charge others with having such weapons," he said.

On the latest progress in the process of reunification of South and North Koreas, the ambassador said the heads of state of the two countries had recently signed a new agreement under whose provisions the peninsula should be freed of nuclear arms and American forces should leave the South Korean soil.

On the role of Japan in the developments in the Korean peninsula, Hwang said Tokyo was trying to equip itself with nuclear weapons to emerge, secretly but rapidly, as a big military power under the pretext that North Korea was after atomic arms.

He claimed that Japan has acquired a great deal of plutonium from other countries and stockpiled on her soil, something that enables that country to build nuclear weapons within few days considering its technological advancement.

"The Japanese want to assume the role of a gendarm in the Far East," the ambassador said.

He called for cooperation of Iran with his country in confronting arrogant countries, preventing them from equipping themselves with nuclear weapons and also to block their infiltration into the Middle East and Korean peninsula.

Deputies Protest Interruption in Coverage

LD1803095192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 17 Mar 92

["Text" of letter to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, signed by 146 Majles deputies, read by Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasul Monjatab-Nia at Majles session—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To his excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, peace be upon you.

In accordance with Article 121 of the Constitution, you have taken an oath to safeguard the Constitution and support the nation's rights identified in the Constitution. Regrettably, on Sunday, 25 Esfand [15 March], the authorities of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, contrary to Article 69 of the Constitution and the present laws of the state, prevented live broadcast of the Majles proceedings for about one hour. But thanks to the Majles' protest and a call for a strike, the radio resumed its live broadcast of the Majles proceedings at 0930 hours [0600 GMT].

This action of the authorities of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic is a blatant change from the victory of the Islamic revolution, which will threaten freedom and pave the way for despotism. We hereby call on Your Excellency to pursue the matter and let the people and the judicial authorities know who was responsible for this illegal move. By doing so, Your Excellency will safeguard the freedom and independence of the Islamic Republic.

It is obvious that the Judicial Branch, for the sake of safeguarding the law, and particularly the Constitution, must offer cooperation in this regard.

Khomeyni Views 'Highly Important' Elections

LD1303123992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpts] In a meeting last night with the commanders and officials of the Security Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid Ahmad Khomeyni described the elections for the fourth Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] as highly important, since they cover the constructive phase of the country's economic and social development. He then reminded the intelligent, alert, and faithful people of the recommendations made by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the need to maintain unity and sincerity, and to be present on all the scenes belonging to the revolution and the regime.

He added: Everybody in the world is carefully watching how the elections for the fourth Islamic Consultative Assembly are held. They follow events related to the

Islamic revolution in an effort to assess the political and social strength of the regime and the revolution. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid Ahmad Khomeyni said that possession of commitment and such virtues as powerful political, economic, and social viewpoints by the Majles candidates will be a determining factor in the formation of the Fourth Majles. He then stressed: We must make every effort to minimize political tensions in society. Those who find their way to the Majles must be sound, revolutionary, and have faith in the Islamic interests of the revolution. Then it hardly matters whether they belong to this or that wing. We must try to bar entry to the Majles by opportunists and those faith-peddlers who oppose the essence of Islam, revolution, and the Imam.

He said: Today, when the totality of the revolution and the regime is in need of planning, we must have representatives who are expert, intelligent, and committed. They must be committed to the guardianship of the jurisconsult [Velayat-e Faqih], and also individuals who enjoy the highest level of expertise and knowledge.

Referring to the new arena of confrontation between the arrogant Western camp and the Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khomeyni made it clear that the arrogant camp, headed by America, is making every effort to emerge as the unchalleneged policeman of the world. He said: America admits that if it does not move fast, then what they call Imam Khomeyni's fundamentalist Islam will be the greatest danger to its interests. He said: Today the awakened freedom-seeking thoughts all over the world know that America's power is fragile. They know that no military power can resist the will of the nations.

In conclusion, he said that empty claims about the violation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran stem from pressures which the Western camp exerts on international organizations and assemblies. [passage omitted]

He stressed that the Islamic Republic attaches no value to such claims and that it will not knuckle under the vengeance of its enemies.

Turkish Mediation in Nagorno-Karabakh Rejected

LD1403171792 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—A senior Armenian official here today ruled out any mediation bid by Turkey and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) over the current conflict in Karabakh with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Vahan Papazian, political advisor for the Armenian president, rejected Ankara's plan to end the clashes as "biased", and said "Turkey is pursuing its own interests in the region." Papazian who is heading a delegation to Tehran to attend peace talks with Azerbaijani officials sponsored by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, was addressing a press conference after talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the latter's deputy for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi.

However, added Papazian, if Turkey changes its attitude and succeeds in convincing Armenia of its change of heart, it can have a role in the peace efforts.

Asked about the possibility of NATO mediation, he said "we have not even thought of assigning NATO a role to resolve the differences over Karabakh, and no exchange of views has taken place in this regard."

According to Papazian, Armenia's views concerning cease-fire in Karabakh were no different than Iran's. He also described his talks with Velayati as "positive".

The Armenian official expressed surprise at Russian hesitation to curb the bloodshed, and thought that the withdrawal of forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has made the situation "worsening" with tension likely to mount.

Va'ezi who was present at the news conference, called for using any proper channel to narrow the gap between the views of the two warring sides in order to establish a cease-fire. The peace talks which started here this afternoon, were termed "significant" by the Iranian deputy foreign minister.

He said checking the spread of fighting to other parts and exchange of bodies of war victims, were other short term objectives of the Iranian peace plan. Va'ezi rejected the idea that sectarian reasons were behind the Karabakh conflict, and said the United States of America is not happy over the Islamic Republic of Iran's mediation efforts to end the clashes.

Commentary Sees 'Plot' Against Azerbaijan

NC1503112392 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Mar 92 p 13

[Commentary: "The Massacre of Azerbaijani Muslims by Armenians and the Hidden Hands of World Arrogance"]

[Text] The continuing atrocities committed by Armenians against Azerbaijani Muslims in Nagorno-Karabakh have had considerable political consequences. Last Friday, the president of Azerbaijan resigned in the face of pressure from his opponents, who accused him of laxity and leniency in the face of Armenia's military onslaught against Azerbaijani territory.

In addition, a former Soviet Interior Ministry official accused the Russian and Armenian leaders of signing an agreement aimed against the lives and property of the people of Azerbaijan. The agreement has been published by the BAKU NEWS AGENCY.

In spite of the arcane political rivalry that continues among the political groups in Baku, the fact is that in the Nagorno-Karabakh battle, the Armenians enjoy the overt and covert support of the Russians and the so-called "CIS forces."

At least the incidents of the winter of 1989 in Baku, and the massacre of Baku Muslims by Russian forces, have clearly documented the issues pertaining to the conflict between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis. The incidents prove to most regional analysts that the Russians have taken an unjust stand on the nationalistic crisis in the former Soviet territories. In fact, their anti-Islamic and apostate behavior is evident from their performance.

Add to this the painful phenomenon of the unlimited and unstinting assistance of anti-Islamic forces in the Central Asian republics, and we can comprehend the depth of the atrocities taking place daily in the northern regions—which lay close to our nation—in the form of war, crimes, and savagery by the Armenians against the lives, property, and honor of the Azeri Muslims.

A corporate plot has been hatched against the very existence of the Muslim nation of Azerbaijan. The Armenian forces—with Russian aid and cash, propaganda, and weapons from the West—have mobilized all their strength in an unholy alliance against the Azerbaijani Muslims. If this alliance succeeds in attaining its objectives, it will most certainly pressure another group of Central Asian Muslims.

The land that Lenin and his successors ruled at the point of the sword for 74 years has unfortunately emerged as a mass of heterogeneous nationalities, races, and religions. Territorial and border disputes initially created by communist policies are now breeding grounds for the influence of every sedition imaginable.

If Azerbaijani Muslims do not take action today and transform their potential strength into real strength, and if the Muslims of the world continue to remain indifferent to the wave of genocide against the Azerbaijani Muslims, tomorrow the multifarious plots by the powers of world arrogance will be directed toward the other strata of deprived and oppressed Muslims in Central Asia, at which point it will be difficult to strangle the aggressive and belligerent forces.

'Source' Assails 'Baseless' Turkish Allegations

LD1403213992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] In the wake of the Turkish interior minister's allegations regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for a Turkish opposition organization known as Turkey's Hezbollah, on 14 March an informed source in our country's Foreign Ministry described the allegation as baseless and said: Although Turkish propoganda has constantly distorted the facts and made accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leveling of such baseless and unfounded accusations against its neighboring country by one of Turkey's official and responsible figures gives rise to wonder. The Foreign Ministry official added: It appears that the Turkish Government has embarked on such a path to divert its society's attention away from its numerous internal problems.

'Political Weakness' Blamed

LD1503132192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Commentary]

[Text] The Turkish minister of state, has irresponsibly alleged that an unknown organization called the Turkish Hezbollah maintains connections with Iran. This unfounded allegation has been vigorously denied by our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some time ago, the Turkish State Ministry claimed that the Kurdish opposition, who are fighting the central Turkish Government in six eastern and southeastern Turkish provinces, are being supplied by Iran and Syria. Those statements by high-ranking Turkish officials, together with persistent propaganda by that country's media and press, are considered a new propaganda campaign regarding relations between Tehran and Ankara. Such acts, which continue with the cooperation of at least some of the Turkish ruling council, are undoubtedly aimed at the two neighboring countries' relations, and direct responsibility for the consequences, whatever they may be, will undoubtedly rest with Ankara.

The illegal seizure of the Cape Maleas, carrying cargo for Iran from Bulgaria, with a full and legal bill of lading, eventually ended with a court ruling to impound the ship and its cargo, as well as conviction of its captain. This incident occurred after the Turkish president and prime minister had repeatedly promised the imminent release of the ship and its cargo.

Now the Turkish State Ministry's allegation regarding ties between an organization called the Turkish Hezbollah and Iran has been raised, an organization whose existence has been reported only by several Turkish papers. Are these incidents accidental or will they continue? Are the problems rooted in the internal issues and the rivalries between Turkish parties, or do the foreign policy teachings of others affect the Turkish Government's political behavior? These and other questions like them are being posed by political observers.

So far Iran's stance on this series of events has been one of restraint, decorum, and prevention of tension in bilateral ties. Nevertheless, current developments are not hidden from public opinion, and in any case, Iran's reciprocal reaction will not be unexpected. Whatever the roots of the existing problems, it is the Turkish Government that bears responsibility.

Iran and Turkey are important Economic Cooperation Organization members, and have enjoyed extensive cultural, political, and commercial ties for many years. Undoubtedly ignoring the problems will not be in the interest of the Iranian and Turkish nations. Making the two countries apprehensive about each other, and the constant reference to Iranian and Turkish rivalry in such and such part of the world, is merely propaganda aimed at producing a confrontation between two friendly and neighboring states. Publishing similar articles in the American and European press is an attempt to pressure the two countries.

It is not only Iran which is the target of these propaganda attacks. Turkey, with a potential 90 percent Muslim population, also has the potential to be the future Algeria in the Black Sea region. Therefore, linking that country's internal problems to external parties could stem from the government's political weakness in dealing with the increasing trend of the Islamic tendency within Turkey. It could be used to justify the suppression of opposition groups, and possibly could stem from the insinuations of foreigners outside the region.

Commentary Criticizes Turkish Raids on PKK

NC1303152192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Commentary: "Turkey's Renewed Air Raids on Northern Iraq"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that yesterday, several Turkish military aircraft again attacked Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] camps in northern Iraq. The Turkish Armed Forces have repeatedly attacked the territory of Iraq, an independent country, in order to hit the PKK camps. According to several Kurdish sources, 60 people—most of them women and children—were killed as a result of the Turkish attacks, which took place some time before yesterday's raids. All this has occurred when Turkish officials have claimed that they are defending the rights of the Kurds in Iraq. In fact, Turkish Prime Minister Demirel said some time ago that Turkey will not remain indifferent toward the acts of violence in Iraq, and that Ankara's new policy will not allow Turkish officials to remain inactive about matters related to the security and daily life of the Kurds in that country.

What has caused concerned at present is the indifference maintained not only by the international organizations and associations, but also by the Hammer Force, which is based in Turkey. The deployment of this force in Turkey is aimed at providing security for the Kurds. But a White House spokesman has described Turkey's air raids on northern Iraq as retaliation for PKK attacks in southeastern Anatolia. This was an indirect confirmation of his support for Turkey's military attacks.

It is quite clear that the provisions of international law call for condemning every kind of terrorist activity, and that in view of this, no country can remain indifferent toward acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that Turkish officials and the Hammer Force must realize that the attacks carried out against the PKK guerrilla camps in northern Iraq actually conflict with the provisions of international law, and constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of that country. Meanwhile, political observers believe that the silence maintained by the Hammer Force in the face of the death of innocent people—including women and children—cannot be explained in any way. Furthermore, these attacks may create instability and uncertainty in the region and worsen the existing crisis.

The following question should be asked when all this is considered: Can military operations and attacks on the territory of an independent country be regarded as a logical approach aimed at effectively resolving the problem?

Ayatollah Meshkini Condemns Seizure of Vessel

LD1303172692 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1334 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Second sermon by Ayatollah Meshkini, senior cleric and leading figure of Assembly of Experts, at Friday prayers in Qom on 13 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] My final words in this sermon concern the Turkish judge. He has ordered, he has judged that a ship which belongs to Iran bearing Iranian goods is to be confiscated. He has issued the order for the seizure. The Iranian goods have been seized. This is the Turkish judge.

Let us say that this judgment contravenes international law—as Iran has already said. We said you have no right to make this ruling. We say to the Turkish Government: It is not right to treat your neighbor Iran is such a way. You will regret it later. This is just bowing down to America.

O Islamic governments, do not become slaves to blasphemy. Do not degrade yourself before Bush! Do not degrade yourself before idolatry powers. Do not bow to them, do not kneel before them. [pasage omitted]

O Muslims, do not be scared—you are great. Why should so many people become slaves of blasphemy?

In any case, their act was ugly. I believe that it would be better for Turkey to retract it quickly. They should apologize to Islamic Iran, otherwise the end will not be in their favor. [passage omitted]

Connection Seen With Korean Ship

LD1603101192 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JAHAN ESLAM' (MUSLIM WORLD) printed in Tehran said in a commentary Sunday that the United States intends to lead Iran-Turkey relations to a critical path towards a regional crisis. It said the Islamic

Republic should not overlook Washington's device, but added that reaction to Washington's intrigue should not threaten Iran's long term interests in the region.

The paper commenting on the seizure of the Iran-destined Cypriot registered ship Cape Maleas at the Bosporus Sea last October 22nd, and on a ruling by a Turkish court Thursday which authorized her impoundment by the Turkish Government and seizure of her cargo said:

"Turgut Ozal who was in Tehran for ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Summit meet sometime ago promised in his meeting with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani that he would do everything to solve the problem. After his return to Ankara he called on the judiciary authorities of Turkey to help solve the case of the seized ship and release her as soon as possible. Twenty days ago the Turkish cabinet voted for the release of the Cape Maleas, but 23 days later a Turkish court ruled for impounding her cargo and sentenced her captain to six years prison term.

"The sum of the said developments demonstrates the fact that the idea behind Turkey's decision is to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Because of Iran's status internationally the United States is not able to make other relatively independent countries obey the U.S. dictate for sanctions and economic pressure against Iran. Therefore the U.S. thinks of other devices for implementing its goal and the governments that are puppets in the hands of the U.S. Government are the devices with which the U.S. can realize that goal. Turkey has now turned into that same device. The statesmen and the authorities in Turkey lack the necessary willpower to make political decisions or decisions touching on Turkey's foreign relations.

"Although the U.S. in pursuit of her long term interests is bent on creating a deep rift between Iran and Turkey and possibly creating a crisis center in the region, and although Iran should not be heedless towards such a development, it should not react in a manner to threaten her regional and international interests.

"Obviously the decision by Turkey is interrelated with U.S. chasing of a Korean ship that was heading to Iran last week. The two developments should be regarded as having been two aspects of a planned and multi-dimensional device (against Iran)."

Government Urged To 'Reconsider' Turkish Ties

LD1403110492 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Two leading morning dailies Saturday commented on Ankara's decision to confiscate the Iranian-bound Cypriot vessel "Cape Maleas" and called on the Islamic Republic to seriously reconsider its ties with Turkey.

Cape Maleas was seized by Turkey in Bosporus Strait last October. The Turkish president and prime minister in various occasions promised that the issue would be solved soon. However, last Thursday, the Turkish court voted for confiscation of the ship and its cargo. The foreign ministry immediatley summoned the Turkish ambassador to Tehran to inform him of Iran's strong protest and called for reconsidering the decision.

The persian daily "ABRAR" wrote in a commentary that the Turkish decision came less than a month after the summit session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran, of which Iran and Turkey are members.

It is surprising that Ankara did not respect the promises of Turkish president and prime minister regarding the settlement of the issue. The contradiction in Ankara's diplomacy speaks of lack of independence in decision making process.

Apparently the Turkish government, in a bid to further appease the West, goes on with humiliating itself.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran should seriously review its attitude towards Turkey as long as the Turkish statesmen insist on pursuing the American and NATO's policies."

Certainly, as long as the Islamic Republic is lenient towards Turkey and tolerates its impudencies, Ankara will be further emboldened to carry on its plans.

Iran will best respond the Turkish move by "reciprocating" it in every possible way, concluded ABRAR.

The other Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" wrote in its editorial that the timing of the Turkish court's ruling, issued a day after the Cypriot foreign minister wound up his visit to Tehran, indicates that the issue is of political importance for Turkey. Ankara, by choosing the worst possible time to announce the decision dictated by others, "inflicted a fresh blow on its ties with Tehran."

Regardless of who is behind the ruling or what has prompted the decision, the fact is that it will seriously affect Tehran-Ankara ties.

Tehran patiently waited for the final ruling on the Cape Maleas issue and refrained from any hasty decision. It seems the time has come for the Iranian foreign ministry to take actions to counter Turkey's "illogical and ugly" attitude.

"Turkey has benefitted tremendously from its ties with the Islamic Republic while Iran has been gaining little. Ankara has always pursued its own interests in bilateral relations."

"A serious economic pressure on bilateral relations has now become unavoidable and it seems that Iran stands no loss in this regard."

Moreover, certain other key and fundamental decisions in Tehran-Ankara economic-trade relations could be adopted to the interest of the Islamic Republic.

Iran has always favoured good neighbourly relations with Turkey. "Now for the sake of preserving the principles, we are obliged to make decision in this regard," concluded JOMHURI.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Experts Assembly Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini on Friday warned Turkey against confiscating Cape Maleas. "It is not to the expedient of the Turkish government to heed to the dictates of the world arrogance and act against the Islamic Republic."

The ayatollah who is also the Friday prayer leader of the holy city of Qom addressing the worshipers also called on Turkey "to respect its friendly ties with Iran and instead of committing improper actions open its eyes to realities."

Visiting Australian Discusses Chemical Accord

LD1403210192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The Australian representative to the Geneva disarmament conference, currently in Tehran, discussed issues related to chemical weapons disarmament during his meeting with our country's deputy foreign minister for international affairs this morning. After submitting the text of Australia's proposal on the chemical weapons convention, the Australian representative to the Geneva disarmament conference voiced his country's belief in the need for the convention to be comprehensive in respect to the developing countries.

Remarking on the Islamic Republic of Iran's effective role in regional and international issues, the Australian representative to the disarmament conference hailed Iran's efforts to mediate in the Karabakh conflict.

Our deputy foreign minister for international affairs, having explained our country's international policies regarding the debate over the chemical convention, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its methodical stance, has been closely following the talks on drawing up the convention. Underlining the need to adopt clear and speedy measures in the convention to safeguard the interests of the developing countries—particularly in terms of economic and technological cooperation—he said: In view of this significant factor, diligence should not be sacrificed for speed in drawing up the convention.

Atomic Agency Urged To Act Against Israel

NC1503202292 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Mar 92 p 13

[Commentary: "Policy of Killing Two Birds With One Stone in Controlling Nuclear Arms"]

[Text] Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], recently stated: "Israel should be included in the areas that are to be declared free of nuclear arms as part of the peace process in the Middle East." He added: "Creating a denuclearized zone demands that Israel also renounce its nuclear capability."

Blix's remarks are a reference to the presence of nuclear weapons in occupied Palestine, and the Zionist opposition to all efforts to destroy such weapons. For many years, with U.S. assistance, the Zionists have invested enormously in a program to manufacture nuclear arms in occupied Palestine. They enjoy all kinds of financial assistance and the services of U.S. technicians and specialists in this pursuit. Not only have the Zionists made no attempt to conceal U.S. support for their nuclear program, they audaciously boast of the program's progress.

The Zionists are also the only side in the compromising Middle East talks who enjoy the political support of the United States and do not permit the IAEA to inspect their nuclear facilities. It is a fact that all the Arab regimes seeking to compromise with the usurping Jerusalem regime are aware of this fact, and Hans Blix and all other high-level IAEA officials have admitted it during their investigations in the Middle East.

The fact is that it is the IAEA's obligation to combat all nuclear programs in the world that are not for peaceful purposes, and this should be at the forefront of its programs against those governments that do not believe in any limits as far as the use of weapons of mass destruction is concerned. The Americans and Zionists have repeatedly shown that they do not believe in any laws, standards, or commitments surrounding their use of weapons of mass destruction and in perpetrating heinous atrocities against the people. These are the governments on which greater pressure should be exerted and whose actions should be combated by the international community.

If international laws and commitments can be easily trampled over without any kind of punishment or reprimand by the audacious and rebellious regimes, and if the substance of these laws does not differentiate between the law-abiding governments or the violators regarding legal followup, then what is known in the world today as international law is nothing but a collection of words written and locked up in desks and cupboards in the international community's archives.

If the IAEA wants all its decisions to be endorsed by the international community, it should take action against those governments that violate its charters. It should display an appropriate, decisive, and serious reaction to those who openly flout these laws.

Hizballah Leader's News Conference Detailed

NC1603221792 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic
6 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] His eminence Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, has reiterated that Islamic resistance operations will continue against the Zionist entity. He said: Continuation of Islamic resistance operations is the best reply to the assassination of 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi by the Zionist enemy.

Speaking to well over 40 local and foreign correspondents in Tehran, Hasan Nasrallah said: "Our policy toward the Zionist entity is not a vengeful measure, it is rather a defense of Lebanon's land and people."

Nasrallah rejected any linkage between the martyrdom of 'Abbas al-Musawi and the Western hostages who have been released in Lebanon. He said: Israel considers Hizballah the backbone of the Islamic resistance and that is why it always tries to deal a blow to this resistance.

The Hizballah secretary general said the objective of his visit to Tehran was to meet with senior Iranian officials and to give allegiance to his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, may God preserve him.

Responding to a question by a foreign correspondent on why he gives allegiance to Iranian officials when he is a Lebanese citizen, Nasrallah said: Giving allegiance to the Islamic revolution does not run counter to my status as a Lebanese citizen, because as Muslims we believe in government by the jurisprudent [wilayat al-faqih]. We have managed through our religious commitment to give great services to the Lebanese people. Islam is not confined to geographical or national borders.

Reacting to another question, on what form Hizballah's struggle would take in the event of an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, Nasrallah said that "the Zionist entity is characterized by an aggressive nature, and consequently it will never give up its aggression." He pointed out that this entity will not reach a genuine peace, so even if Israel withdraws from south Lebanon, the responsibility of liberating Palestine will be shouldered by all Muslims.

His eminence said: We have mujahidin armed with a strong will who are ready to execute military operations as part of the Islamic resistance, by using their material and physical capabilities.

On Hizballah's relationship with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, Hasan Nasrallah said: "We consider ourselves a part of the Islamic revolution. This is no secret and this relationship existed in the past. It is natural for the Islamic revolution in Iran to assist all liberation movements in the world." He added, however, that Hizballah does not need additional people from Iran, saying that Hizballah has enough mujahidin, volunteers, and activists.

Replying to a Western reporter's question on the likelihood of Hizballah holding hostages in the future, the Hizballah secretary general said his party did not resort to this method in the past and asked: How can it do that now? He emphasized that U.S. propaganda is the one which accuses the Islamic resistance of terrorism.

On the situation in Algeria, he said: We have expressed our support for the Islamic movement in Algeria from the beginning, and we back any Islamic people who have a will and demand an independent regime.

He rejected any organizational link between Hizballah and the Algerian revolutionaries, and said: The Algerian Government's execution of Algerian mujahidin is foolish. Such measures will not benefit the Algerian Government.

Answering a question on a potential future confrontation between Hizballah and Syria, Nasrallah said: What is important is that the Syrian Government has declared that the Islamic resistance forces have the right to defend themselves. We have no particular issue with the Syrian Government.

On another point, Nasrallah strongly denounced the peace negotiations, and said: Hizballah has announced its stand on this issue by organizing marches and issuing statements, because these negotiations will not produce results.

Commenting on Hizballah's stand on the Saddam regime, he said that the Gulf war was a cultural service rendered to the United States by Saddam, because it removed the Vietnam issue from the Americans' minds. He hoped that Saddam's regime will fall quickly, and that a popular government will form in Iraq.

Regarding participation in the coming elections in Lebanon, he said that this issue was being discussed before 'Abbas al-Musawi was martyred, but that no final decision has been made.

Replying to a question on Hizballah's future position in the Lebanese political system, he said that the party is not a military and security group, and while it is regarded as a jihad movement, it is also a popular and political movement that has a political plan to run Lebanon's affairs. He added that the large-scale participation in martyred 'Abbas al-Musawi's funeral procession confirmed this.

He pointed out that, by assassinating 'Allamah al-Musawi, the Zionist entity was planning to occupy many towns and cities in southern Lebanon and deal a blow to Hizballah. By virtue of martyred al-Musawi's blood, he said, the Zionist entity faced a splendid resistance by the Muslim mujahidin, who forced it to retreat after inflicting grave losses, which the enemy's military leaders themselves admitted.

The Hizballah secretary general emphasized that the regional situation is currently at a crisis and that Hizballah's mujahidin are in a state of full readiness to confront any new aggression.

Pakistan

State Minister Confirms Nuclear Capability

BK1703110992 Peshawar FRONTIER POST in English 17 Mar 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad—Reiterating Pakistan's standard position on its nuclear programme, minister of state for foreign affairs said here on Monday night "we have certain technical capability" but this is entirely for peaceful purposes.

Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo was asked for his comments on the defence minister's statement in Lahore on Sunday that increased violation of human rights in Kashmir compelled Pakistan to go nuclear to safeguard its security.

Clarifying Ghous Ali Shah's statement Kanjoo said it was Pakistan's "political decision" that the nuclear capability will be devoted exclusively to the peaceful purposes. He reminded that the stand on nuclear issue had been categorically stated by him on the floor of the National Assembly only recently.

For the peaceful settlement of Afghanistan the minister said, Pakistan would stick to the United Nations secretary-general's formula. And, in pursuance of this objective consultations are being held with all the Afghan Mojahedin leaders who took part in the Afghan jehad, he added.

He was asked if Islamabad has accepted the Hekmatyar four-point formula for peace in Afghanistan.

Replying another question Kanjoo said, Pakistan's ambassador in Washington, Syeda Abida Hussain, was not being removed. He was asked if her statement in favour of Israel had warranted her removal.

The minister said Syeda Abjda Hussain had already stated that she had been misquoted, and that position is the correct position.

According to PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] while talking to newsmen at an Iftar party hosted in honour of the ambassadors of the Islamic countries by Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, amir Jamaat-i-Islami at a local hotel, Kanjoo said "Pakistan has repeatedly amounced that it has no aggressive designs against any country so no question arises to use this capability for other purpose."

When his attention was drawn towards the statement of federal defence minister, Syed Ghans Ali Shah he said, "I fully endorse his statement regarding nuclear capability."

He said Pakistan had always extended sincere proposals for declaring South Asian region a nuclear free zone. He said "we are still repeating our demand in this connection."

Regarding Abida Hussain's reported statement about Israel's recognition, he said, Pakistan would never deviate from its firm stand in this connection.

To another question Kanjoo said the government had not changed its policy on Afghanistan, however he said we fully support the United Nations five-point formula for a peaceful settment of the long-standing Afghan issue.

He said we have regard for all the parties and groups including Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan and its chief Engineer Gulboddin Hekmatyar.

When his attention was drawn towards a news item appeared in a section of the press regarding the nomination of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as foreign minister, he said "no comments." But when a reporter asked whether he would be happy if Sahabzada Yaqub was nominated for this purpose he replied "why should it be a bad news for me."

F.P. [FRONTIER POST] Monitoring report adds: According to the BBC, the federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Ch. Amir Hussain has said that Pakistan's nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes and it has no intention of making a nuclear bomb.

Coming in the wake of the defence minister's statement that Pakistan had acquired nuclear capability, it has compounded the confusion regarding Pakistan's nuclear status. It may be recalled that earlier Shaharyar Khan, the foreign secretary, had claimed that Pakistan was capable of manufacturing a nuclear device. But later on this statement was subjected to several clarifications and detrials.

'Defiant Tone' on Nuclear Stance Seen

BK1703113992 Peshawar FRONTIER POST in English 17 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Brinkmanship"]

[Text] Defence Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah has finally brought the nuclear cat out of the bag. He has declared in unequivocal terms that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability to maintain a balance of power in the region. He said the increased violation of the human rights in held Kashmir compelled Pakistan to go nuclear to safeguard its own security. One is amazed at his naive justification for an extraordinary accomplishment. The pro-bomb lobby should be quite happy following the announcement which is tantamount to putting the bomb on the shelf, and also on the categorical rejection of the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The minister's admission reflects a crucial departure from hitherto carefully nurtured ambivalence over the issue.

Earlier, as against the estimation of US administration that Pakistan possessed two nuclear bombs, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar had not only admitted a single piece but had shown some diplomatic moderation on the issue during his visit to the US.

The announcement by one of the most trusted ministers of the prime minister has come at a time when some very important developments on the nonproliferation issue had come to the fore: (a) a positive movement had taken place between the US and the Government of Pakistan following recent visits by the COAS [Chief of Army Staff] and the foreign secretary to Washington; (b) the Indian foreign secretary, Mr Dixit, entered in bilateral negotiations with the US over the proposed 5-nation nonproliferation conference for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia and (c) the People's Republic of China have agreed to the NPT as a nuclear weapon nation. However, all these developments do not mesh with the defiant tone of the announcement, especially at a time when we were in the middle of pleading the peaceful nature of our nuclear programme to get suspended US aid restored. Obviously we have lost our case for peaceful use of nuclear expertise after pulling the wraps from the bomb. To counter the accusations of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] allies, especially Jamaat, for having capitulated on the nuclear issue, the Nawaz Sharif government has, perhaps, inversely perceived the international developments in this regard. The international reaction in this behalf can be gauged by much harder statement on the subject on the same day by the Director, US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. While referring to the lesson taught to Iraq, he underlined the necessity to adopt a harsher course to stop nuclear proliferation, and to ensure that nuclear bomb does not reach irresponsible hands in the Middle East and South Asia. He has also suggested that the US wants both India and Pakistan to sign the NPT, or they must open their facilities to both mutual and International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection. Before taking such an important policy decision, the government should have taken into account all the developments objectively, rather than succumbing to the pressure of its hardliners. Even the parliament has not been taken into confidence. While the government may win plaudits from the chauvinists, it will face greater pressure from the international community. The anti-bomb lobby and public opinion in the US will surely be strengthened with this delcaration, and the Bush administration will be in a more difficult position to plead the revival of US aid to Pakistan. The release of spares for military hardwares from private sources may also be put into jeopardy. Moreover, the announcement will be a shot in the arm for the aggressive circles in India, and it might further weaken the position of Narasimha Rao to enter into negotiation on the Pakistani proposal of 5-nation conference. The shift in stand on nuclear capability will serve the purpose of our adversaries rather than serving our real interest.

Editorial Views Nuclear Capability

BK1703114792 Lahore THE NATION in English 17 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Security Compulsions"]

[Text] Reaffirming Pakistan's known stance on the nuclear issue, Federal Defence Minister Ghous Ali Shah has said that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability to maintain a balance of power in the region, but is committed to use it for peaceful purposes only. He also made it clear that, regardless of the pressure being exerted on Pakistan, it will not unilaterally sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty]. There is nothing new in what the Defence Minister has said except the change in accent which is anyway indicative of Islamabad's recently-adopted posture vis-a-vis the US insistence on rolling back of Pakistan's nuclear programme. Implicit in his remarks was the suggestion that Pakistan is capable of producing a bomb—a deterrent that it has acquired on account of its security compulsions—and there is no question of surrendering this capability so long as there is no comprehensive settlement on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation in the region. His reference to developments in Occupied Kashmir, which he said had forced Pakistan to go nuclear, set the record straight on the sources of discord between India and Pakistan, making it quite clear that Pakistan cannot afford to let India continue its hegemonistic designs.

Syed Ghous Ali Shah's plain-speaking about the US "selective concern regarding nuclear proliferation in the region has summed up the problem on hand. If the Americans are keen to ensure peace in South Asia, they will have to adopt an event-handed policy not only on the nuclear issue but also regarding the entire gamut of Indo- Pakistan relations. Pakistan has no design to become a nuclear power, it can ill afford to become one, like any other developing nation that has yet to feed and clothe its teeming millions. And the minister rightly said that India and Pakistan could, by mutual agreement, cut their expenditure on defence and mobilise maximum resources for economic development. Nonetheless, it cannot be a one-way traffic. Pakistan alone cannot be singled out for browbeating while India is allowed to get away with its pronounced aspirations for becoming a military power. Peace in the region can be secured on the basis of equality of relations among nations and not by promoting a single country as more equal than others and thus allowing it to arrogate itself the right to act as the regidonal arbiter. Anyone wishing to play the honest broker in South Asia, the Americans in particular, must take into account the historic roots of mutual distrust and hostility between India and Pakistan. As long as Pakistan's security remains under threat there can be no quid pro quo on the nuclear issue.

Spokesman—No Defense Cuts Foreseen

BK1603113592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Mar 92 p 1, 5

[Text] Rawalpindi—Pakistan's defence expenditure is commensurate with its threat perceptions and there cannot be any cut until the threat continues. This was stated by a senior spokesman of the Defence Ministry here Sunday.

Speaking to this correspondent on the Ministry's stand in the current debate on defence expenditure, the official said the danger for Pakistan lay in the expansionist designs of India and Pakistan had to be in a high state of defence preparedness. This made certain levels of defence expenditure necessary.

These remarks came in the context of international donor agencies' view that developing countries of the world including Pakistan should reduce their defence expenditure now that the cold war is over.

The spokesman said that Pakistan had nothing to do with the end of the cold war, as referred to by the donor agencies. Pakistan has also no concern, in the content of its defence expenditure, with regard to the Afghan solution which is in sight following the end of the cold war at the global level.

He said, the real threat for Pakistan comes from India which is continuously and fantastically boosting its war machine by expanding its Navy, Air Force and Army and modernising them with the injection of domestic and acquired technology. Pakistan, he said, had, therefore, to develop an effective deterrent against this threat.

The Defence Ministry spokesman said, Pakistan was very much interested in diverting more resources to the well being of the people and it wanted India also to do so. This could help Pakistan to maintain a balance between its defence and social sector expenditures.

For this, Pakistan wants the Indian threat to subside. But, he said, this was not happening because of the intransigent attitude of India. Issues like Kashmir and Siachen remain major irritants. Giving an example, he said, Pakistan was following the mutually accepted map of the Rann of Kutch Tribunal, but the Indian attitude causes irritation off and on on the Sir creek issue.

The official said, aid suspension by the United States had also compelled Pakistan to depend on hard currency for defence purchases. Pakistan was considering various options for meeting the situation created by the stoppage of US aid in the midst of the four-year post-1987 aid package of 4.02 billion dollars, a substantial part of which was for military requirements. He said, the government was now studying the report from the United States that the Pressler Amendment did not prevent Pakistan from making certain defence purchases from the private sector. If Pakistan did so, it would obviously have to use hard currency.

Similarly, he said, modalities of payment for defence purchases from France were under discusion. In case, purchase was to be made on cash, it was to be made with hard currency.

With all these obligations, Pakistan's defence expenditure could not obviously be reduced, the spokesman said.

In reply to questions, he said, administrative expenditures were not high in the armed forces of Pakistan, nor were their personnel enjoying any special facility or privilege in relation to those of comparable armies of the world. "They are not fighting sitting in the air-conditioned tanks," he remarked.

The spokesman said, in fact, a proportionate ratio was being maintained between the weapon systems and the administrative machinery. There is a rather sustained effort on the part of the government to maintain this balance.

Answering a question on the commitment to Islamic solidarity, the spokesman said, they had, above all, their national defence commitment. He denied that the armed forces were lending support to fundamentalism, whenever their assistance went out for an Islamic cause. Describing this as propaganda of a particular international lobby, the spokesman said the armed forces of Pakistan were not at variance with the outlook of the Pakistan government.

He agreed that with Islam as a fundamental belief, Pakistan has to live as a liberal democracy. Pakistan's armed forces do subscribe to this belief, he remarked.

Khan, Sharif Attend General Headquarters Briefings

BK1703151092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, visited the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today. On arrival at the COS [Chief of Staff] Secretariat, the president and the prime minister were received by General Asif Nawaz, chief of the Army staff. During their stay at the General Headquarters, the president and the prime minister attended briefings on professional matters.

Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Minister for Defense Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Finance Minister Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee Admiral Sayeed Mohammad Khan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan, and high ranking army and civil officers were also present on the occasion.

Foreign Exchange Reserves Reach $430 Million

BK1603123492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Senate has been prorogued after adopting a motion expressing its deep gratitude to the president for his address to both houses of parliament assembled together on the 19th of December last. A large number of members from both sides of the house took part in the debate which began on 11th of last month through a motion moved by the minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain.

Taking part in the debate today, the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, said there has been considerable increase in investment, exports, and foreign exchange reserves as a result of economic reforms introduced by the present government. He said growth rate has shown improvement as compared to the last year. Exports have increased by 12 percent despite the worldwide recession during the last eight months.

The finance minister said on the 14th of this month, foreign exchange reserves stood at $430 million in comparison to $300 million during the corresponding period last year. About inflationary trends and price situation, he said the government is seized with the problem and is trying to restrain inflation to a single-digit level. Nondevelopmental expenditure has shown a 15 percent decline.

Islamic Party Not To Withdraw From Alliance

BK1803103692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Chief of Jamaat-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad has said his party will not cooperate with the People's Democratic Alliance in their agitation against the present government. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday evening, he also said that the Jamaat-i-Islami will not withdraw from the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad at the present juncture.

Sharif Seeking 'Era of Cooperation' With India

BK1803103992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said he is looking forward to starting an era of cooperation with India. He called upon the Indian leadership to enter into a constructive dialogue to find negotiated solutions to all outstanding bilateral issues including Kashmir. In an interview with the KHALEEJ TIMES correspondent in Islamabad, the prime minister said the Kashmir issue is the root cause of tension in India-Pakistan ties and the brutalities in the Kashmir valley have crossed all limits. He expressed the hope that India will realize the gravity of the situation in Kashmir and will agree to resolve the problem in accordance with the UN resolutions and the spirit of the Simla agreement.

When asked whether Pakistan will accept the Kashmiri people's decision in favor of a sovereign Kashmir state, Nawaz Sharif said India should first of all grant the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people to enable them to decide on their own and then other aspects of the problem can be considered. He said he sincerely desires to see Pakistan and India resolving their problems through negotiations in a peaceful and friendly manner. The people of South Asia are among the poorest of the world, who need to devote their entire resources and energy to the immediate and highly important task of achieving economic progress to come up to the level of the developed world. To achieve this, South Asia needs peace and stability more so than any other part of the world, he observed.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's stand that President Najibollah should relinquish power before the establishment of an interim government in Kabul. He said Pakistan desires a solution to the Afghanistan problem and, therefore, it fully supports the UN peace plan.

Answering a question about Pakistan-U.S. relations, Nawaz Sharif said in spite of the deadlock on the nuclear issue, the two countries are desirous in maintaining their purposeful relationship and continuing their cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan has emphasized a regional mechanism for checking the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. Unfortunately, India has not responded positively to this proposal. The United States is also currently working toward starting a five-nation consultation to check the proliferation of nuclear weapons in our region. We are still optimistic about the prospects of this proposal, the prime minister added.

'Contradictions' in India's Nuclear Stance Seen

BK1603112292 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "On Whom Does India Propose to Drop Her Bomb?"]

[Text] Even a sympathetic observer of India's management of its Foreign Affairs would admit to being a little lost in the maze of pronouncements and contradictions issued by the Indian External Affairs Minister. Mr Madhavsinh Solanki and the Foreign Secretary Mr Jyotindra Nath Dixit in recent days.

Where does India stand on nuclear non-proliferation? Mr Dixit said that India would be willing to enter into negotiations regarding the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao declared that India will not sign the NPT. He argued that the disarmament programme should be implemented on an international basis. By this he presumably meant that nuclear disarmament must be treated as a single global issue and all members of the United Nations should sign the NPT without exception. Mr Rao expressed the fear

that with the colapse of the Soviet Union some new states might be acquiring nuclear technology from the former Soviet Republics. That being the situation, India would not "remain a silent spectator." He did not quite elaborate what kind of noise India would make if it opted against holding her peace. Not explode another bomb, one hopes!

The Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Dixit made certain observations during his recent visit to the United States which gave the impression that India was trying to evolve a more flexible approach to the NPT. Such flexibility had become necessary after the People's Republic of China decided to sign the Treaty. In an interview with the BBC in London Mr Dixit said India might be willing to participate in the five-nation conference intended to make South Asia nuclear free provided its terms of reference were acceptable. There was an uproar against this disclosure in the Indian press. Mr. Dixit beat a hasty retreat the moment he touched New Delhi: "There is no question of India signing the Non-proliferation Treaty and I have not succumbed to any pressure from the United Staes."

Members of the ruling Congress 'I' and the Opposition parties in India were left gasping and guessing. They called upon the government to clarify its position. The Rajya Sabha was assured that India would not enter into any secret military agreement with the United States. If that was so, asked a member why was India participating in joint naval exercises with the United States. A great deal of concern was also expossed about the fact that the espionage network of the United States was in a position to search any ship in the Indian Occean, the latest being a North Korean vessel which, the United States alleged, was carrying scud missiles for Iran.

The whole issue of nuclear disarmament is far too important to be left in such a confusing state. If the Indians are not yet clear about the desirability of making South Asia nuclear free they should have the courage to say so. The whole region is agitated about India's growing naval power and countries of South Asia and South East Asia would be vastly re-assured if India were to abandon her nuclear programme. The Indians must some time ask themselves on which people would they drop their nuclear bomb and for what reason and purpose. India is under no external threat as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian armed forces has so bravely admitted. In any case the whole doctrine of deterrence has gone up in smoke. Any nuclear weapons would be of no use to India in pursuit of any expanionist goal. So what does India propose to do with the bomb?

It is understandable why the United States would want to see India armed to the teeth because it could then be of great service to the Americans in blocking what the Americans regard as China's regional ambitions. They had hoped that the whole Communist system and structure in China would go under with the collapse of the Soviet Union. That did not happen and no one can forecast how the chips will eventually fall. Would China eventually abandon Communism or bring about structural reforms in their system to modernise their society without giving up their ideology. But all this should be the concern of the United States which has unilaterally and provocatively assemed the responsibility of establishing a new world order. There is no advantage for India to become a willing hostage to American foreign policy. It is the growing burden of arms which will cripple India where millions of people are destined to exist in a state of starvation, ignorance and disease. Events in the Soviet Union have convincingly demonstrated that it was the arms expenditure which destroyed the Soviet society. India should take steps now to reduce her military expenditure. That would not only enable her to develop her social sector but also help her come to some understanding with her immediate neighbours and remove the anxieties of countries in South East Asia. It is in India's interest to sign the Non-proliferation Treaty and abandon the ambition of becoming the most powerful naval force in the region.

Envoy to U.S.—Flow of Spare Parts To Continue

BK1803100192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Mar 92 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, March 17—Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Syed Abida Hussain has indicated that commercial sale of military spare parts by the US to Pakistan may continue uninterrupted as the Bush administration was not going to tighten further the Pressler's Amendment for the time being.

The ambassador, who is here in Pakistan, was talking to THE MUSLIM.

Begum Abida saw thaw in relations between the two countries. The Bush administration reportedly feels that further restrictions on sale of spare parts to Pakistan will not help achieve their goal of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. They feel that in case Pakistan is denied acquisition of spare parts, conventional weapons and military hardware, it will be compelled to go for nuclear technology to maintain power balance.

The U.S. administration is reported to have also conveyed its feelings to Mr Pressler that embargo on military spares and hardware will encourage Pakistan to go nuclear.

Abida Hussain indicated that no further amendments will be made in the Pressler Amendment as articulated by Pressler recently.

Though Pakistan ambassador to the U.S. did not commit that she has brought specific agenda to Islamabad but highly credible sources claim that she has brought important message from the US administration which were conveyed to her during her meeting with the American President while presenting credentials. That is why they say, she rushed to Islamabad after presenting her credentials.

The sources said that Abida is apprising the leadership and policy-makers of the latest developments over nuclear issue and resumption of aim from the United Staets. She will be going back to Washington on April 4.

Obviously perturbed over wrong interpretation of her statements, Abida was reluctant to make any specific and clear statement while talking to THE MUSLIM. "I have nothing to tell you and moreover ambassadors are not supposed to issue statements", was her initial response.

When asked whether she had come to Islamabad to brief authorities about her achievements, she said "No, inter-state relations keep on going, there is no question of achievements between two friendly states."

Though US administration has recently issued a certification on narcotics, the US sources in the Capital say that this certification too may not be forthcoming in the coming years. When Pakistan's politician turned-ambassador's attenton was drawn to this development, she said, "Let us not talk about coming years." At present, she said, we are more concerned about our immediate problems like nuclear issue and other related matters.

Meanwhile, highly informed sources say that no immediate progress was possible on resumption of aid to Pakistan. In this connection, they point out to electioneering for presidential elections in America and say that nobody can take clear position on this issue in the presence of strong anti-Pakistan and indian lobbies. Indians living in the United States are well organised in different constituencies of the Congressional districts and the states. These Indians not only keep themselves busy in earning money but also work in their areas to exert pressure on the representatives and contribute handsomely to their election campaign.

Though convinced that Pakistan has all along been a trustworthy and dependable ally of the US, the US administration finds if difficult, especially during the election year to admit it or to do anything which could make them annoy potential voters.

However, the sources feel, that after the elections, if Republican President returns to the White House, which is more likely, the case of resumption of aid especially economic assistance would be reconsidered and decided in favour of Pakistan.

Trade Protocol Signed With Uzbekistan

BK1803103092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed a trade protocol in Tashkent. The agreement was signed by Mian Habibullah, the chairman of the Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and (Yerkin), the chairman of the Supreme Council for Economic Reforms, Budget Policy, and Local Self-Government System of Uzbekistan.

Hekmatyar Urges Kabul Forces to Topple Najibollah

BK1803100592 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Engineer Golbuddin Hekmatyar has called upon the officers of Kabul Army to organise themselves for a planned action to remove the puppet regime and pave the ground for the installation of an interim government acceptable to all the parties for conducting elections for the establishment of an elected Islamic government in the country.

This, he said, in a message broadcast by mojahedin-run radio "Payam-e-Azadi" being operated from inside Afghanistan, reports ANA.

He called upon the officers having a live conscience to restore the prestige of the army by siding with the nation rather than killing their own people for the survival of a dictatorial regime. He said, "army should not drench their hands in the blood of its own people. Furthermore, they should show repentance over their past misdeeds and take action against the despicable regime so as to pave way for the restoration of peace in the country."

He stressed the need for establishing such an interim government in Afghanistan which does not include controversial figures or those who want to contest the future elections. Such a government should restore peace by observing ceasefire across the country and hold elections for an elected parliament, followed by a peaceful transfer of power to the representative government.

Hekmatyar urged the army to play its role for extinguishing the flames of war in Afghanistan and restore the confidence of the nation by joining hands with it. He said that if the army did not stand beside the nation there would be two options left, either the regime be removed through jihad or the international conspiracies would lead to its replacement by yet another puppet. But in any eventuality the responsibilities would rest on the shoulders of the armed forces. "Therefore, its future would be bleak and it would face divisions in its ranks and disintegration." Najib, he continued, "never bothers for the killing of the masses for his own survival or the disintegration of Afghanistan in northern or southern zones or turning it into another Lebanon and giving others a chance for interference in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Tamil Tigers Make Fresh Peace Offer

BK1503124092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Colombo, March 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas have invited legislators to visit their northern stronghold to find a solution to the island's dragging civil war, Tamil sources here said Sunday.

They said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was informally proposing a visit by a parliamentary committee to the Jaffna peninsula before agreeing on a formula to end the bloodletting.

The LTTE message was conveyed through the International Committeee of the Red Cross (ICRC) last week, the sources said, adding that the parliamentary committee decided to ask for a "formal written request" before responding.

The message was the first such contact between the LTTE and legislators appointed to a select committee from all political parties in parliament to hammer out a solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic strife.

But rival Tamil parties said the LTTE invitation was a move to delay a possible government offensive against the Tigers in Jaffna, the main bastion of Tamil separatism in the island.

"It is another tactic by the LTTE to delay their destruction by security forces. This will not come to anything," said Darmalingam Sidhathan, leader of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

He said the LTTE would like to see a delegation of legislators visiting Jaffna because that may help them to buy time. "The Tiger can delay a military onslaught, but they can't stop it," Sidhathan said.

Sidhathan's PLOTE is cooperating with the security forces in their current drive against the LTTE in the island's embattled northeast where the Tigers want to establish a separate state.

Sources close to the select committee said another Tamil group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which is opposed to the government as well as the Tigers, were against a Jaffna visit.

The members of the committee themselves have agreed that they would not make public statements about the discussions of their group which was appointed in November. There is no formal deadline for them to come up with a peace package.

However, opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike has said his Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) was not opposed to travelling to Jaffna and said they would go along with any consensual agreement to end fighting.

"If the LTTE wants us to go to Jaffna I don't see why not. This (committee) is the last chance we have for peace," Bandaranaike told reporters here Thursday.

Both the main opposition SLFP and the government have not put out their own proposals to end the ethnic conflict, but say they will accept any package the parliamentary committee agrees upon.

Thousands of people have died during the 19 year campaign led by the LTTE to set up a separate Tamil homeland called Eelam.

Details Reported

BK1703140492 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1342 GMT 17 Mar 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has announced in Jaffna that they were ready for a ceasefire and would only consider local representatives as observers of such a ceasefire and not any foreigners, reports from Jaffna said. Tuesday's OBSERVER states the LTTE hierarchy has told this to a Christian delegation which met them on Sunday reports said. The LTTE has had a wide range of discussions with the delegation led by the vice-president of the Methodist Church, Mrs. Yvonne Ferdinands. The LTTE also reiterated that any delay in bringing about a political solution to the ethnic crisis would make the demand for separation inevitable, according to the LTTE clandestine radio Voice of Tigers. It said the LTTE top brass met the delegation, but did not mention names. Meanwhile, the LTTE has arranged a special programme in the peninsula to unveil the "Tamil Eelam" map in all schools there. This would take place simultanously at every school in the peninsula on Thursday reports said.

'Heavy' LTTE Casualties in Mannar Battle

BK1703144292 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1345 GMT 17 Mar 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—Heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] casualties were reported on Monday [16 March] at Kokupadaya in Mannar, when a gang consisting of 15 LTTE cadres attacked a security outpost. Military spokesman Col. [Colonel] Sarath Munasinghe said at Tuesday's cabinet briefing at parliamentary complex in Kotte that only one soldier was wounded and he, too, received minor injuries. The security forces recovered two bodies of LTTE terrorists after the fire-fight that followed. Meanwhile, three LTTE terrorists including two prominent leaders were killed in an air strike at Kondawali in Jaffna on 8th March. Eight others were wounded of which 5-6 received serious injuries. Two buildings were also completely destroyed in the air strike. Col. Sarath Munasinghe responding to questions said that the LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran was hiding within the Jaffna peninsula. He said curfew was imposed effective this morning in districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Wadamarachchi, and Nathumbani in the AGA [assistant government agent] division of Jaffna.

Senior LTTE Military Wing Leader Surrenders

BK1703120092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] A senior LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] military wing terrorist on Sunday [15 March] surrendered to the security forces' (Palayamsankudu) army camp in the Trincomalee district. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH the terrorist who had participated in recent attacks on government troops will provide valuable information about the current strategy of the LTTE, the terrorist organization's plans, and recent activities. He was the 31st LTTE terrorist to surrender during the last one month.

Official sources said that troops on Sunday captured six 13- and 14-year-old conscripted LTTE cadres carrying heavy bags of food and other provisions for military wing terrorists hiding in the jungles of (Vidake) in the south of the Batticaloa district. Meanwhile, [words indistinct] also shot dead a vanload of LTTE terrorists at Pulmunai on Sunday. During search and clear operation at Tikkodai, also in the Batticaloa district, troops confronted a group of terrorists and opened fire, killing two terrorists, including the group leader (Melni Shankar).

Police Hunt for LTTE Hit Squad Members

BK1603114692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Two accomplices—a male and female—who are members of the notorious hit squad of the Tamil Tigers are believed to have sneaked into the capital Colombo with the terrorist plan to hunt down and destroy Tamil dissidents who have left the Tiger cadres and sought refuge in Colombo. The city police was yesterday on the alert checking possible safe houses in Colombo and the suburbs to track down a 32-year old Tamil female (Dharma Devi) and her male accomplice 25-year old (Sinatambi Somanathan), both of whom are residents of the Eastern Province of the country. (Dharma Devi) was last known to have been operating from an elite residential area in the hill country of (Nurelia) where there is a sizeable Tamil population working in the tea estates. She has long been in the police wanted list as an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] agent who is enlisting Tamil estate youths into the Tiger ranks.

Prime Minister: No Kickbacks in Airbus Purchase

BK1703105892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Colombo, March 17 (AFP)—Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge Tuesday denied opposition charges of corruption and kickbacks involving the purchase of seven Airbus aircraft for Sri Lanka's national airline, AirLanka.

Wijetunge told parliament that the decision to purchase two A-320- 200 and five A-340-300 aircraft from the French-led Airbus Industrie was aimed at replacing an ageing fleet of Tristar aircraft.

"I want to declare here and now that in the case of this aircraft transaction between AirLanka and Airbus Industrie, there have been absolutely no shady deals or corrupt practices," he said.

Wijetunge, who is also finance minister, said the opposition had moved a no-confidence motion against the government over the aircraft deal in a bid to tarnish the image of the airline.

The motion is almost certain to be defeated in the 225-member assembly where the ruling party has 125 members.

Lakshman Jayakody, from the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), said AirLanka's move to raise some 750 million dollars in commercial loans to pay for the aircraft would seriously affect the country's balance of payments.

Jayakody charged that a Swedish go-between had been involved in the deal and the airline was acquiring the new planes ahead of a secret plan by some members in the government to privatize the national carrier.

Describing the opposition motion as a "traitorous action" Wijetunge asked them to provide an alternative policy to develop AirLanka into a strong international airline.

"Airbus Industrie has given the board of directors of AirLanka a certificate to say that no commission or any other fee is payable to any party either in Sri Lanka or elsewhere with regard to the purchase," Wijetunge said.

He added that 11 commercial banks had agreed to finance the deal in such a way that it would not increase the debt burden of the country nor cause any stress to her balance of payments.

Wijetunge said the aircraft would be delivered over a four year period beginning December 1992 and payments would be made on a staggered basis.

Denounces Related No-Confidence Move

BK1803113292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, told parliament yesterday that Air Lanka should have a modern fleet and offer services on par with those offered by other international airlines in the region to remain competitive. In the context, he said that Air Lanka awarded the Airbus Industrie a contract to supply seven aircraft and that a stringent tender procedure was adopted. The prime minister was replying to a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the government on Air Lanka. Mr. Wijetunge charged that the opposition was serving

the vested interests of some companies and organizations which have no permanent interest in the country. He described the motion as malicious attempt aimed at tarnishing the image of Air Lanka in the commercial world and to belittle the achievements of the airliner over the past two and half years. The prime minister assured the house that no public funds were or would be committed to purchasing the new aircraft.

Bank Governor Announces Exchange Control Reforms

BK1303104892 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0922 GMT 13 Mar 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Central Bank Governer Dr. H.N.S. Karunatilake announced, further exchange control relaxations at a press conference in Colombo Friday, in continuation of the liberalisation process initiated in November, 1977 which has been accelerated in the last 3 years and in keeping with the policy of continuing these relaxations in exchange controls, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has decided to liberalise further, the release of exchange for the following purposes with immediate effect [sentence as received].

Holiday travel:- The basic ration of US Dollars 2,500 per adult permitted to Sri Lankan residents for the purpose of travel abroad on holiday and which became effective on 1st October, 1991 is increased by 100 per cent to US Dollars 5,000 per adult per annum. This has been the largest single increase that has been made in respect of travel allowance since the commencement of liberalisation. In 1977 this allowance was a meagre Stg. [Sterling] Pounds 500 and travel abroad was permitted only once in 4 years.

Education:- Exchange control restrictions on education has been liberalised fully. From now onwards, exchange will be released for all types of education including secondary and primary education abroad. Up to now educational allowances were granted only for pre-university, undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This has now been extended to primary and secondary education as well.

Health insurance abroad:- Exchange will be released for the remittance of health insurance premia on health insurance polices obtained abroad. This is the first time that such remittances are being permitted, the objective being that medical expenses abroad would be covered by such insurance.

Export of personal jewellery:- The limit on the export of personal jewellery to be taken out on a bring back basis is increased to Rs. [rupees] 100,000 for females travelling to Indian group of countries and Rs. 150,000 in the case of travel to other countries from the present limit of Rs. 90,000 authorised on 28th November, 1991. Prior to the relaxation of 28th November, 1991 export of personal jewellery exceeding Rs. 60,000 was subject to approval by the exchange control.

Export of gifts of local products and trade samples:- The limit on exports of gifts of local products and trade samples is increased to Rs. 10,000 (US Dollars 250) from the present limit of Rs. 3,500 authorised on 28th November, 1991. Prior to November, 1991 all exports of gifts and trade samples were subject to the prior approval of the controller of exchange.

Capital transfers by emigrants from Sri Lanka:- The limit on capital transfers by migrants emigrating from Sri Lanka is increased to Rs. 500,000 per individual with a maximum of Rs. 1,000,000 per family unit from the present limits of Rs. 350,000 per individual and Rs. 700,000 per family unit. The present relaxation will permit the migrants to carry this amount along with them at the time of departure from Sri Lanka. When the liberalisation process commenced in November 1977, the amount permitted as capital transfer was only Rs. 10,000 per individual. This was increased to Rs. 100,000; again to Rs. 200,000 in 1978 and to Rs. 350,000 in 1988. However, up to the present relaxation, funds were permitted to be remitted only after the forwarding of the landing endorsement in the country of settlement.